

SUPERMAN

Post-**CRISIS**
ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 23:

The World of Metropolis





6-3751

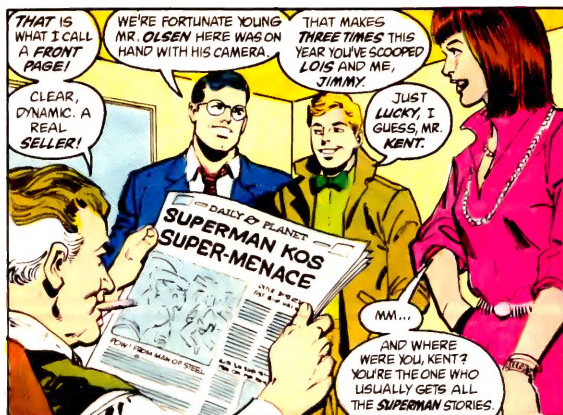
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THAT IS WHAT I CALL A FRONT PAGE!

CLEAR, DYNAMIC. A REAL SELLER!

WE'RE FORTUNATE YOUNG MR. OLSEN HERE WAS ON HAND WITH HIS CAMERA.

THAT MAKES THREE TIMES THIS YEAR YOU'VE SCOOPED LOIS AND ME, JIMMY.

JUST LUCKY, I GUESS, MR. KENT.

DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN KOS
SUPER-MENACE

MM...

AND WHERE WERE YOU, KENT? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO USUALLY GETS ALL THE SUPERMAN STORIES



~SIGH~

NOT ALL OF THEM, LOIS. YOU USUALLY GET MORE THAN I DO.

NOT "USUALLY," KENT.

AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE THE INSIDE TRACK ON OUR RESIDENT SUPER-HERO.



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO! TURN IT OVER! WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE!

NOW, GET BACK TO WORK, ALL THREE OF YOU.

OLSEN--GOOD WORK. BUT LET'S NOT SEE YOU RESTING ON YOUR LAURELS!

NO SIR, CHIEF!



HE'S A GOOD LAD, YOUNG OLSEN. BRIGHT. BRAVE.

THE WAY I LIKE TO THINK I WAS AT HIS AGE. HE'S GOT ALL THE MAKINGS OF A FINE...

WHAT'S THIS...?



POW! FROM MAN OF STEEL

LEXCORP ANNOUNCES
NEW OFFICES IN HO CHI
MINH CITY. OPENING
HAILED AS FINANCIAL COU

THAT SON OF A...

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN.

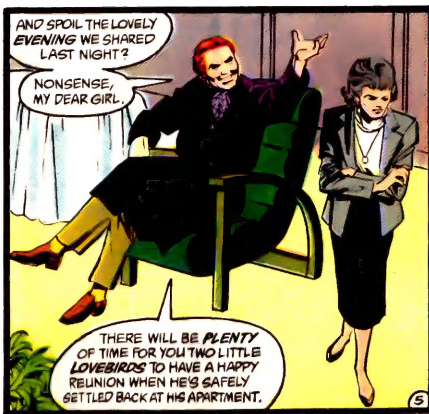
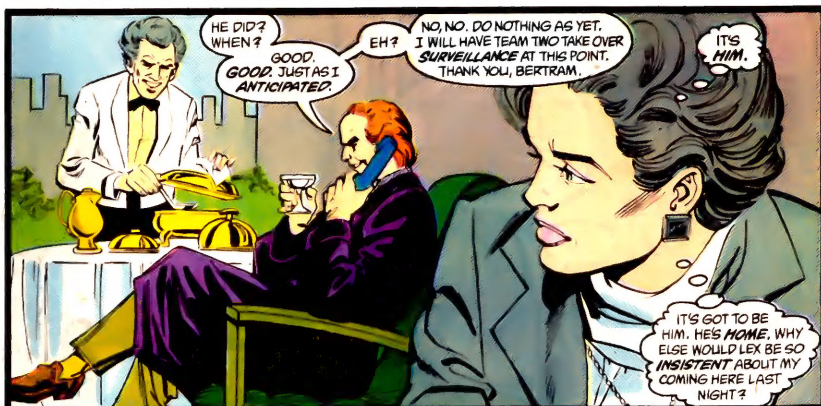


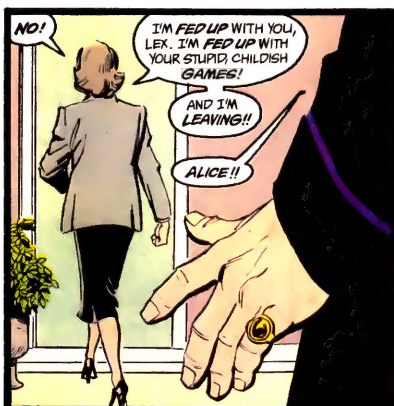
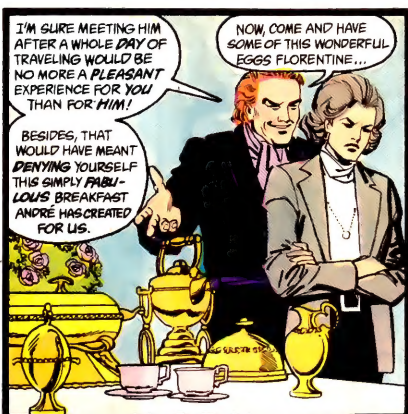
BUT THEN, WHY NOT?

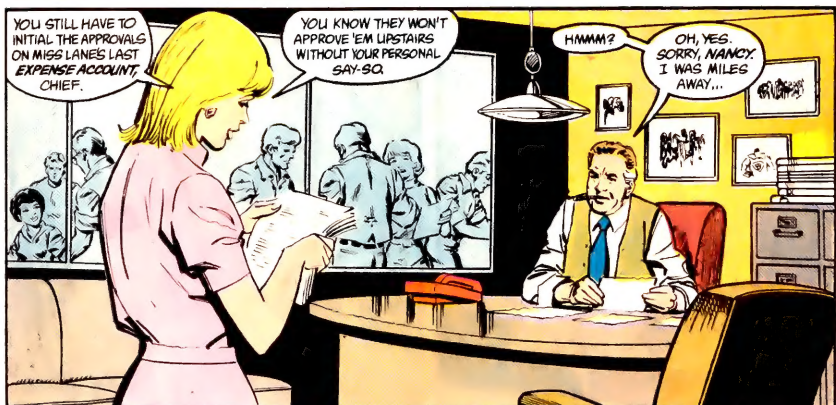
HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN METROPOLIS. ALWAYS HAS BEEN. ALWAYS WILL BE, PROBABLY.

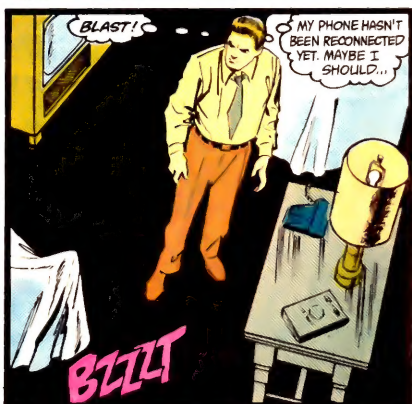
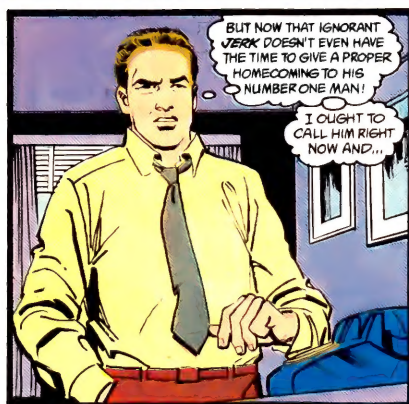
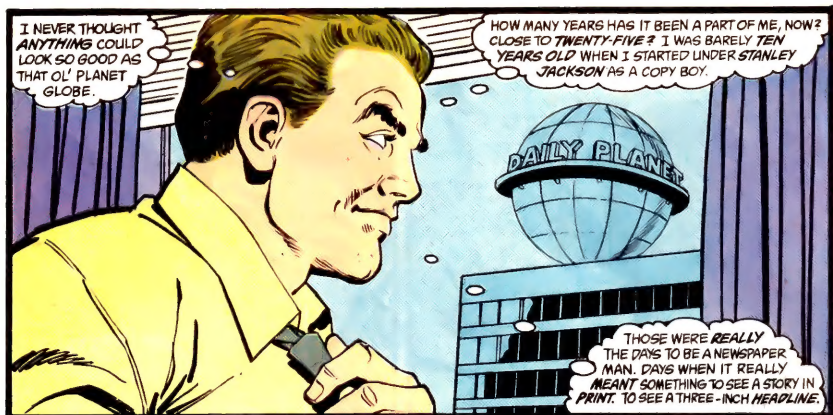
UNLESS HE SLIPS UP, SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW. UNLESS HE GIVES ME A WAY TO DESTROY HIM.

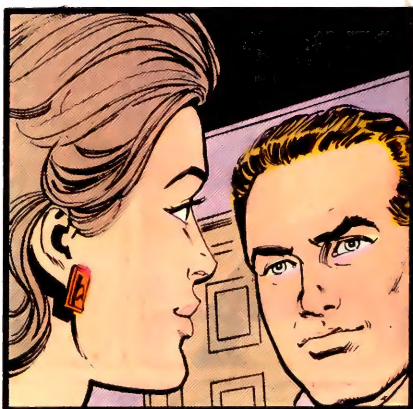
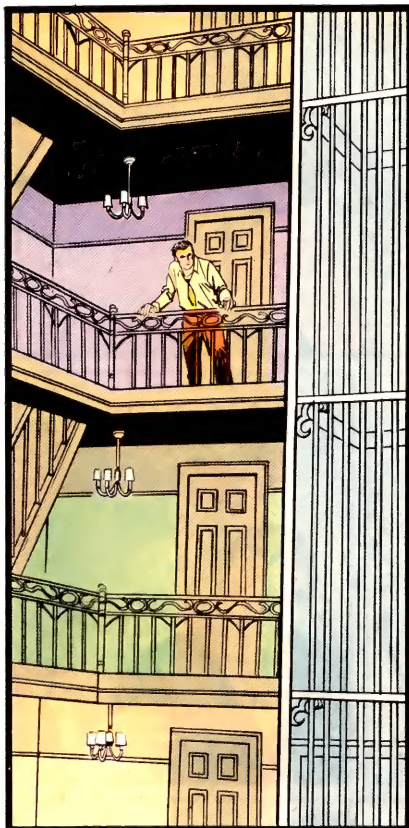


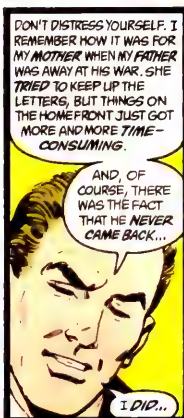


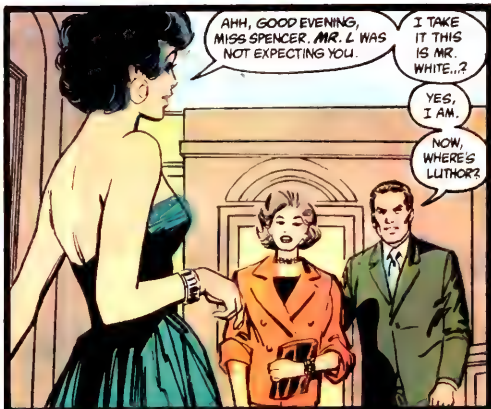
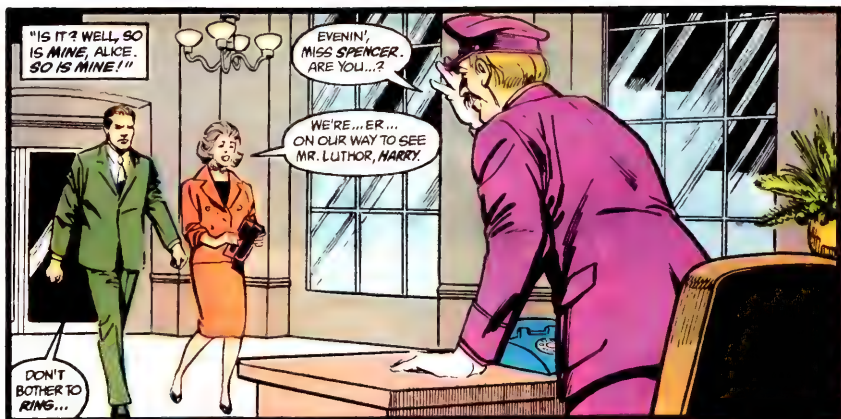


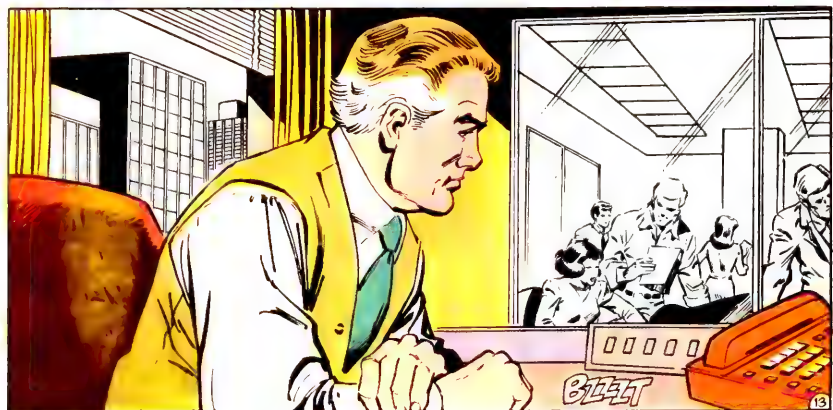
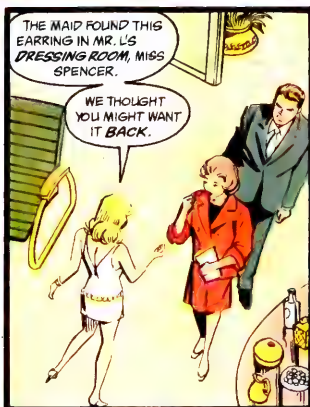
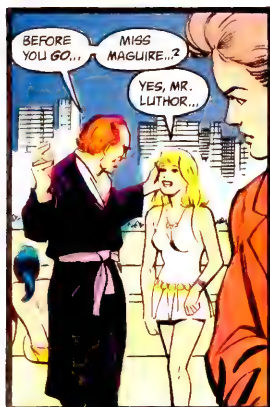


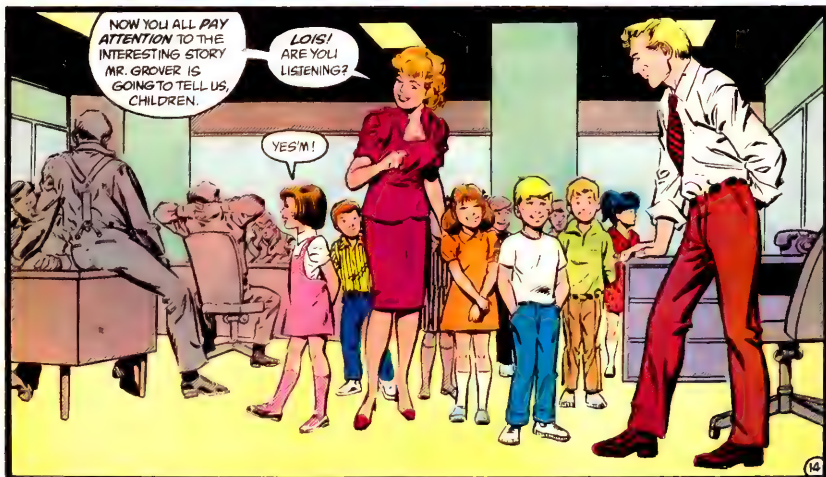
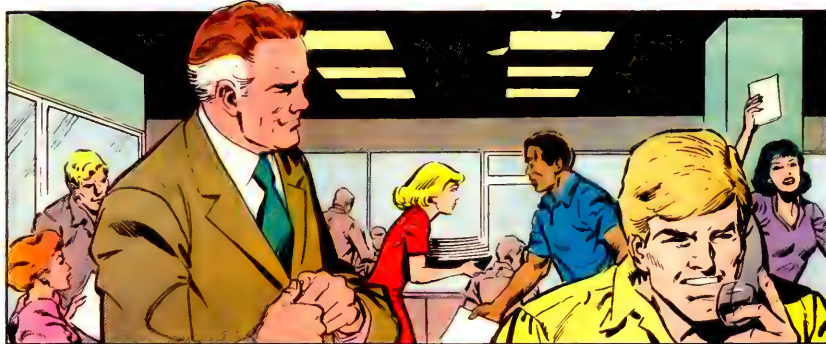


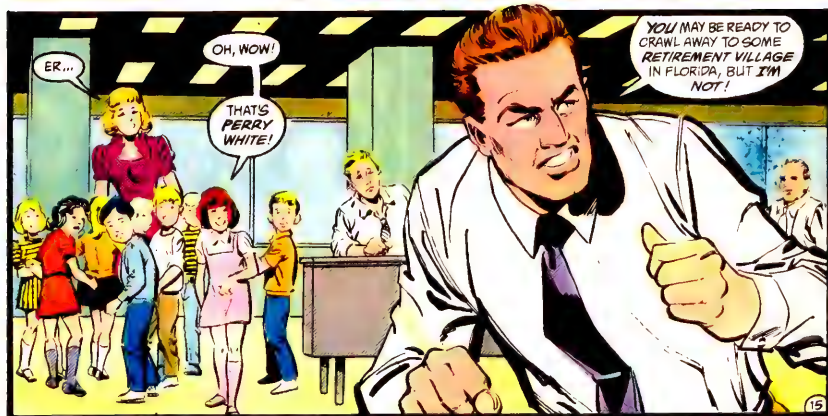
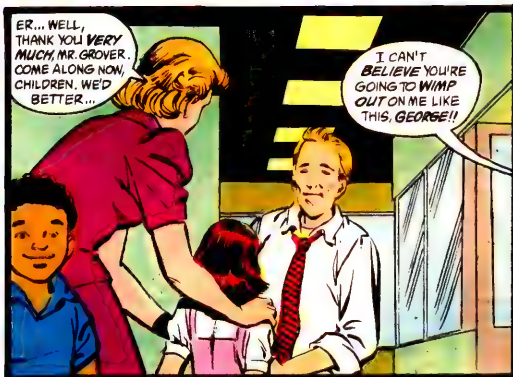
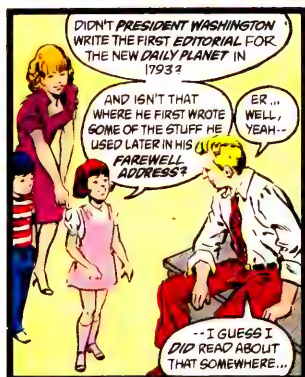
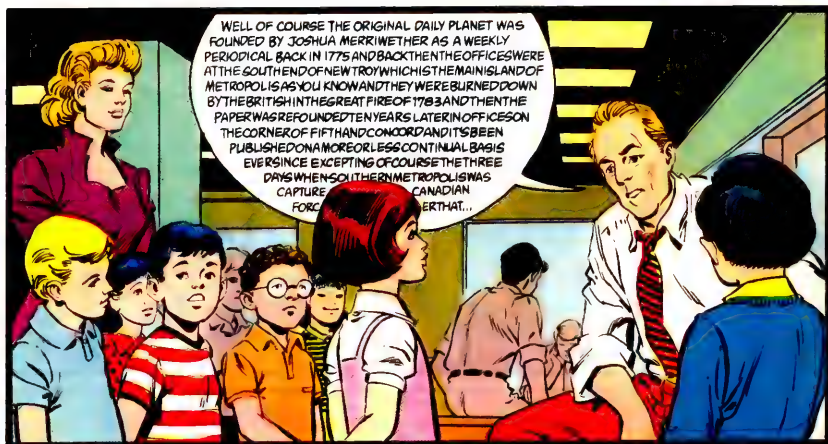




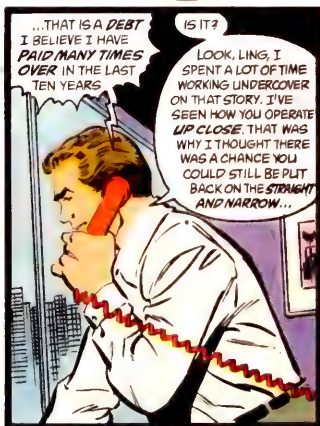
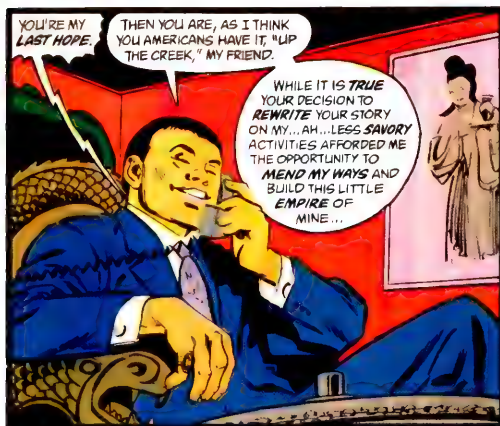


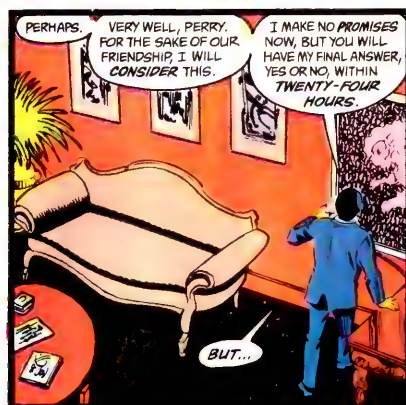


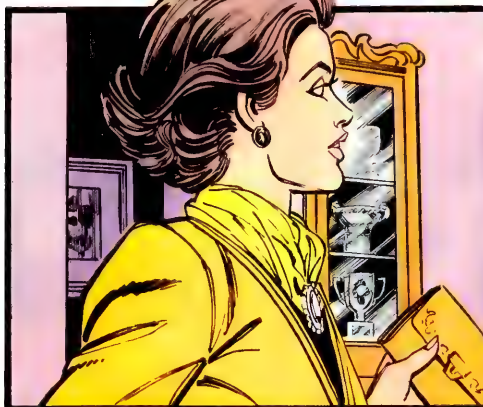
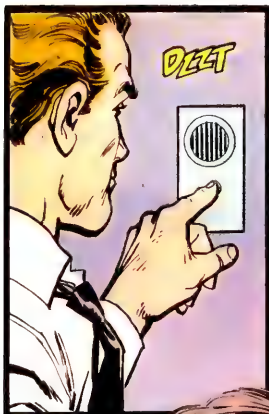


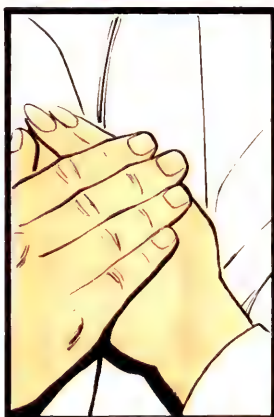
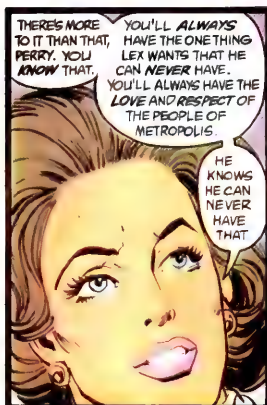


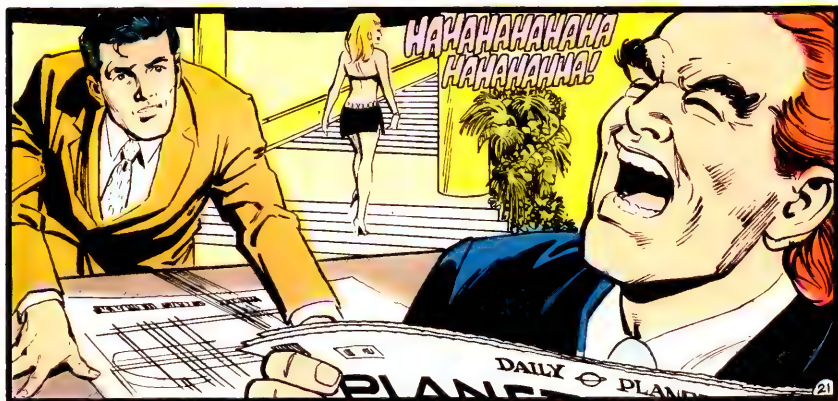
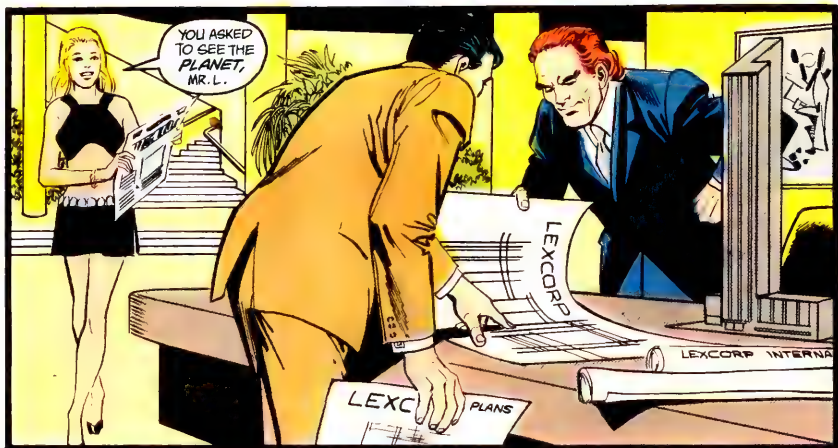


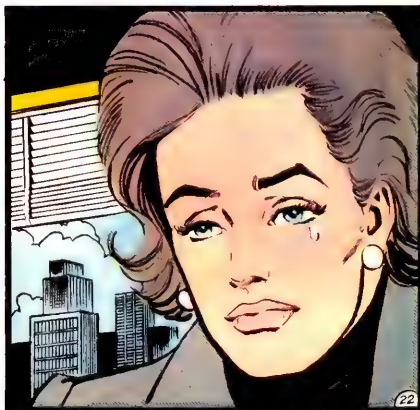
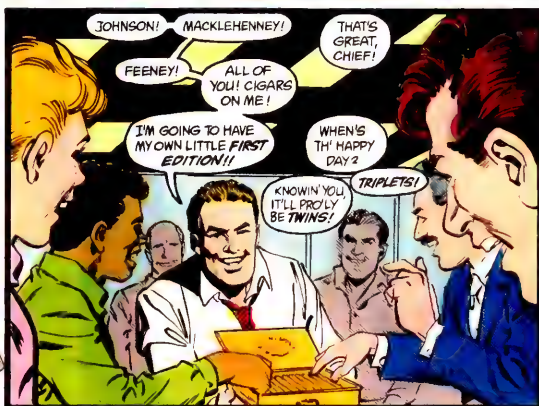


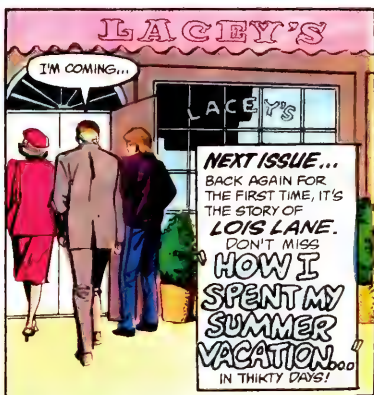
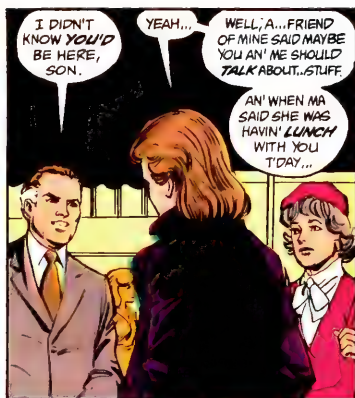












**SUPERMAN'S
GIRL FRIEND**

**LOIS
LANE**

"HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION"



JOHN BYRNE / **WIN MORTIMER**
STORY / PENCILS
DICK GIORDANO & **SAL TRAPANI**
INKS

BILL OAKLEY - LETTERING
TOM ZIUKO - COLORING
RENEE WITTERSTAETTER - ASSISTANT ED.
MIKE CARLIN - EDITING

FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & **JOE SHUSTER**

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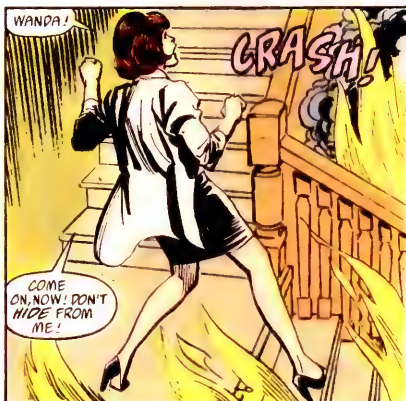
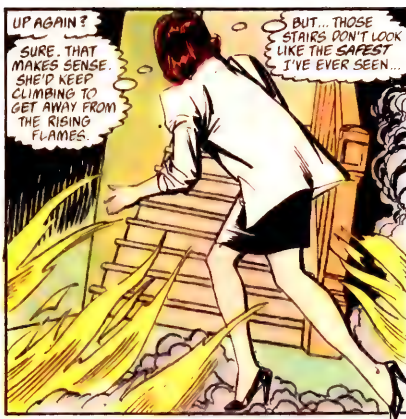
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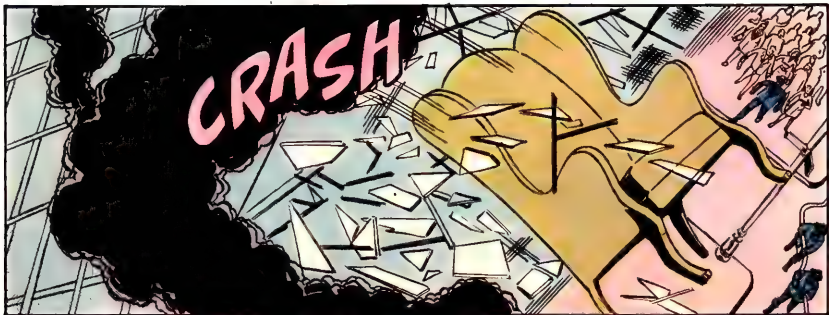
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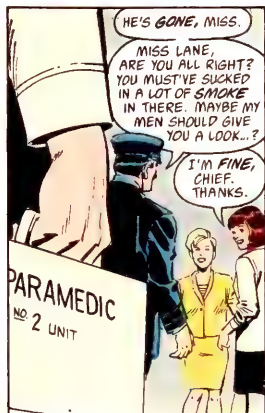
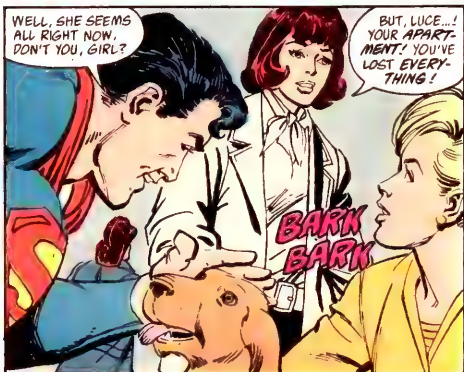
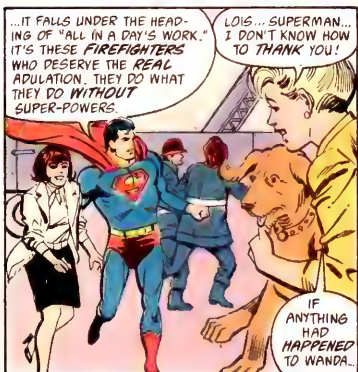
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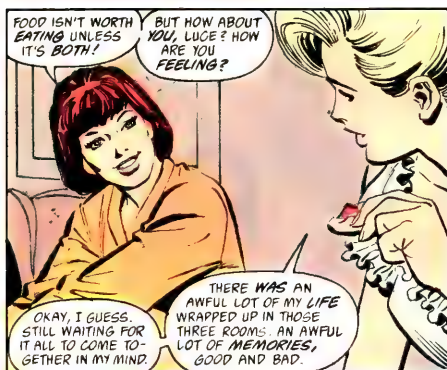
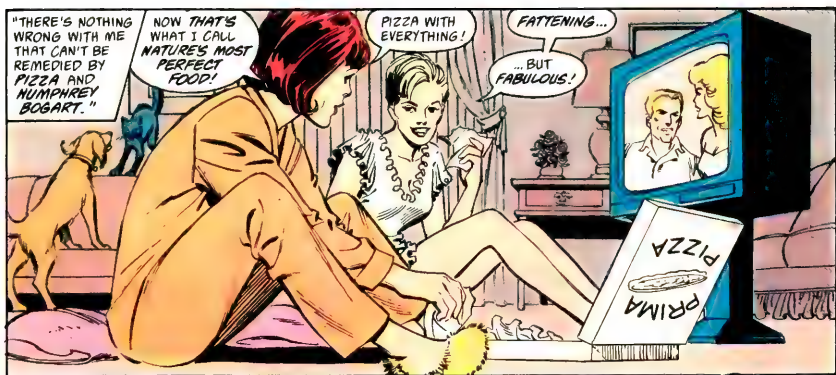


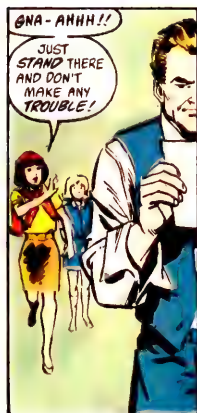




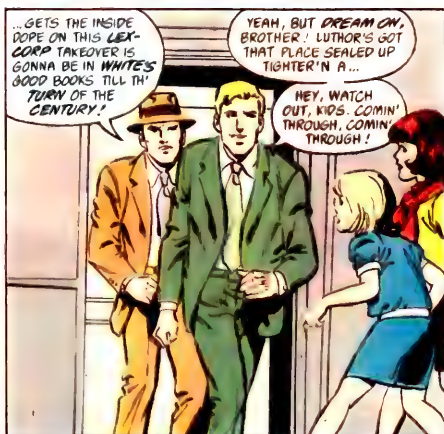


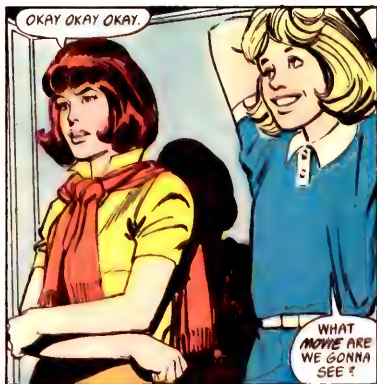


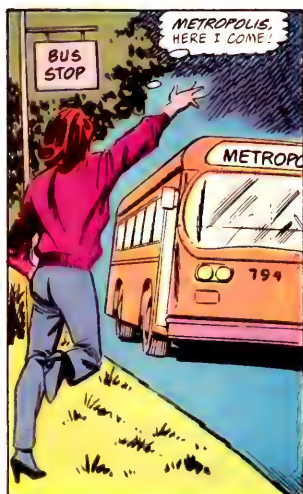
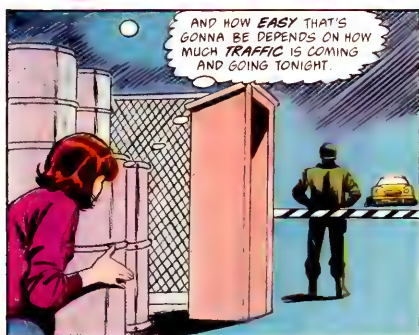


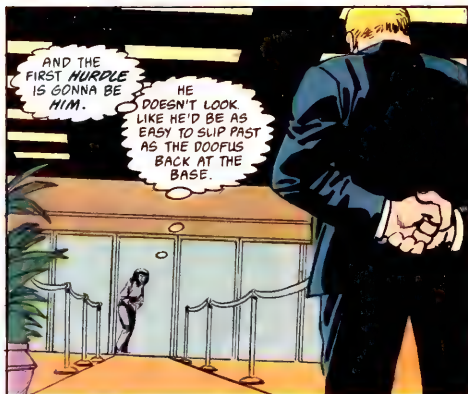




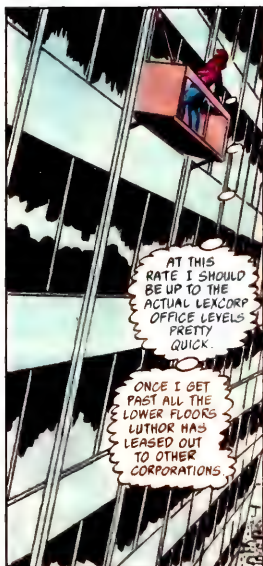




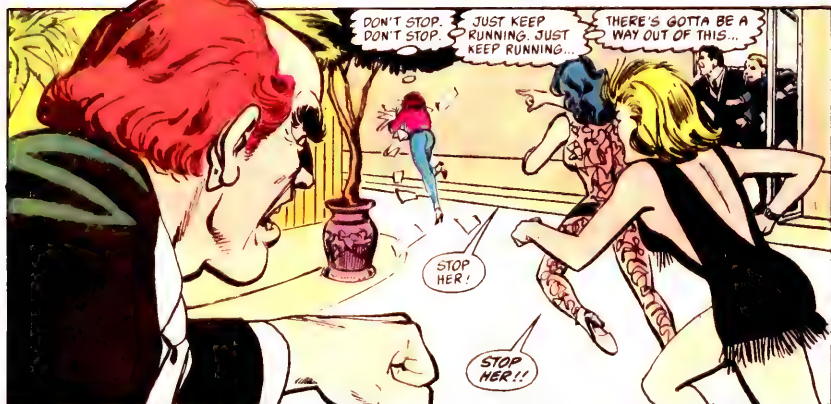
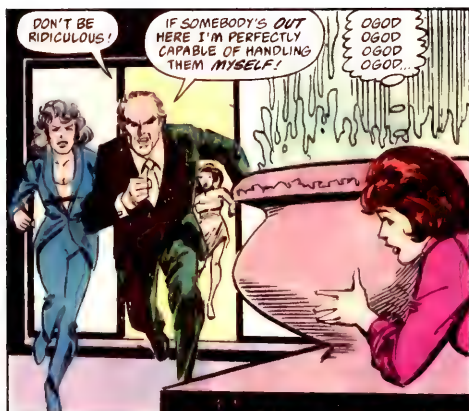






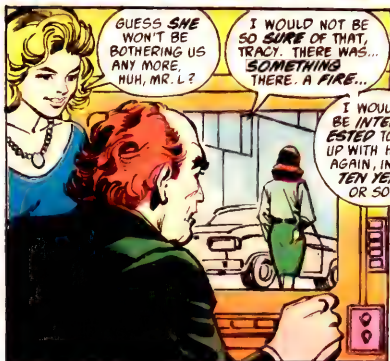
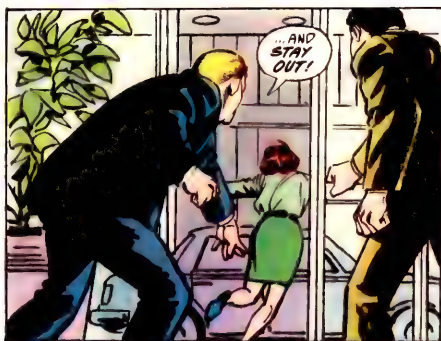


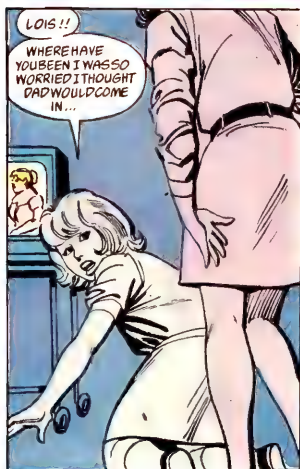
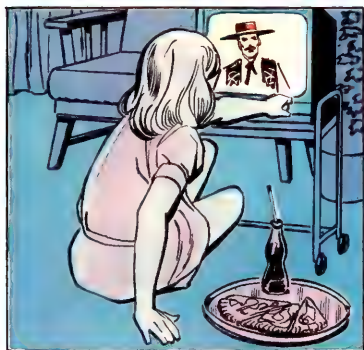


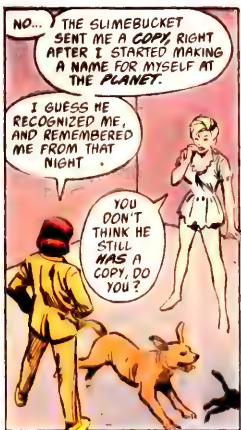
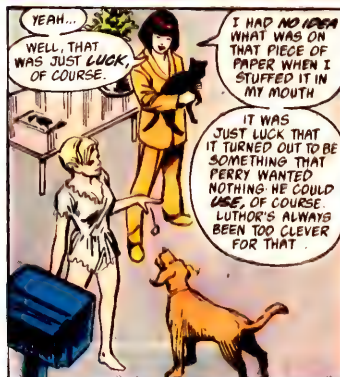
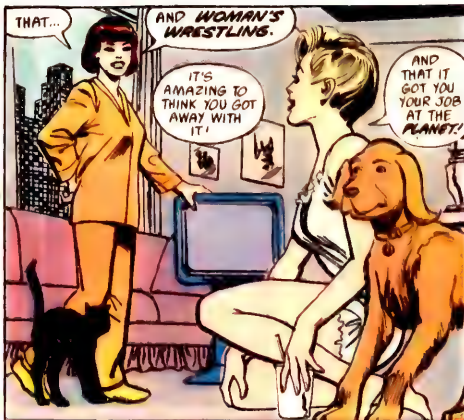












NEXT IN METROPOLIS #3:
A YOUNG MAN IN THE BIG CITY

MR. KENT GOES TO METROPOLIS!

FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

ABOVE, IT'S THE BUSIEST CITY IN THE WORLD. ON ITS STREETS, IN ITS SKY-SCRAPING TOWERS A MILLION TRANSACTIONS TRANSPIRE EACH DAY.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EXCHANGE HANDS.

AND HERE, BELOW THE BUSTLE OF THIS UNOFFICIAL WORLD CAPITOL, THREE MEN ENGAGE IN WHAT THEY HOPE WILL BE AN UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF FUNDS...

FROM THE VAULTS OF THE METROPOLIS MERCANTILE BANK... TO THEIR POCKETS.

MAN, OH MAN, IS THIS SWEET! THIS LASER DRILL WE HIJACKED FROM LEXCORP SLICES THROUGH DIRT AN' ROCK LIKE THEY WAS PLAY-DOH.

YEAH--BUT KEEP YER EYE ON TH' JOB, MORRIE.

YOU SWING THAT RA/GUN TH' WRONG WAY AN' YOU'RE GONNA FIND OUT HOW EASY ME AN' BERT SLICE!

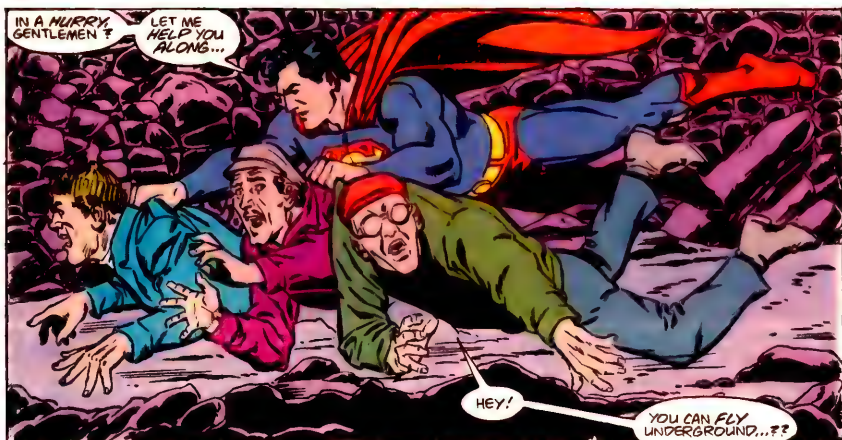
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COLORIST
RENEE WITTERSTAETTER
ASS'T. EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

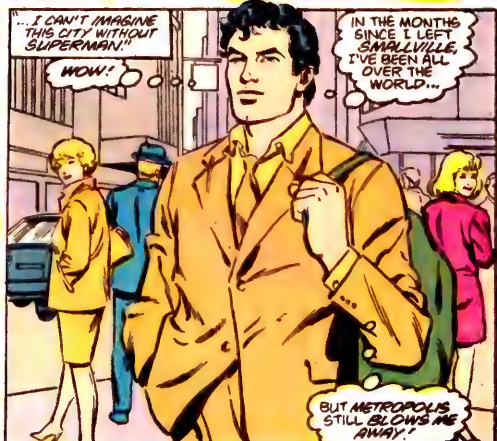
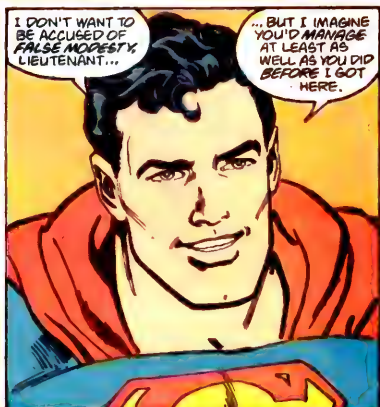
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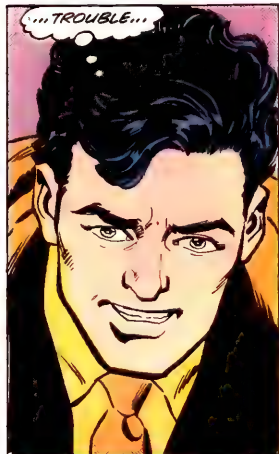
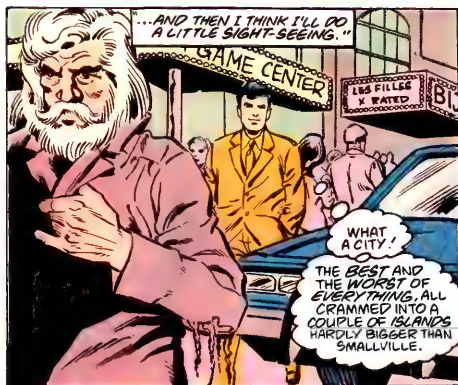
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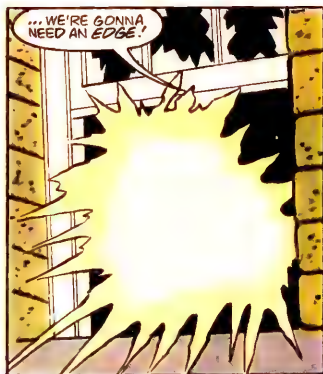
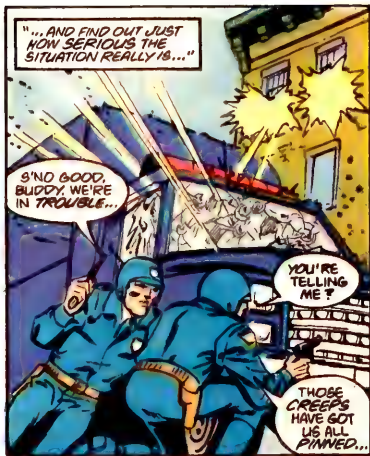
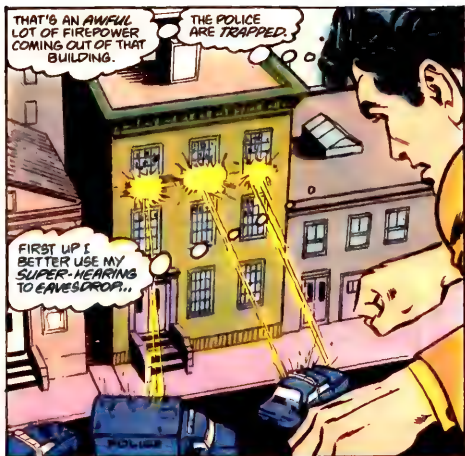
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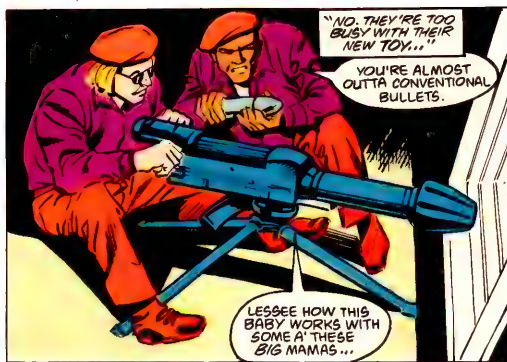
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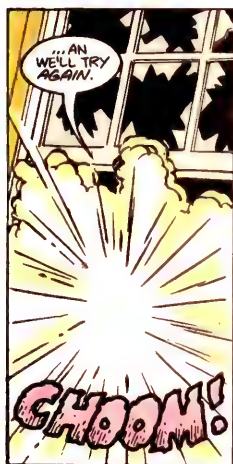
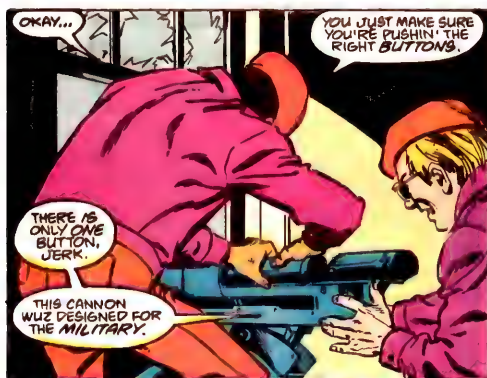




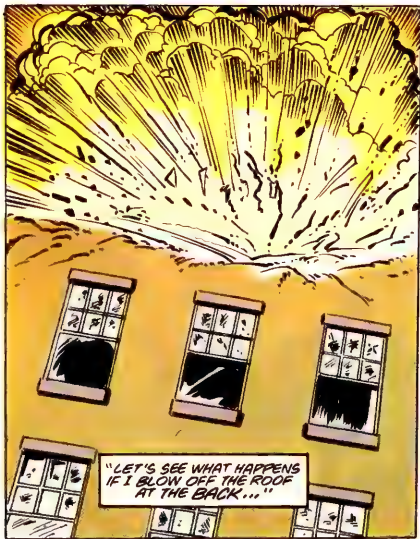
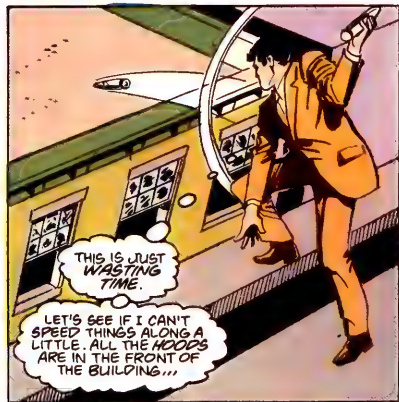
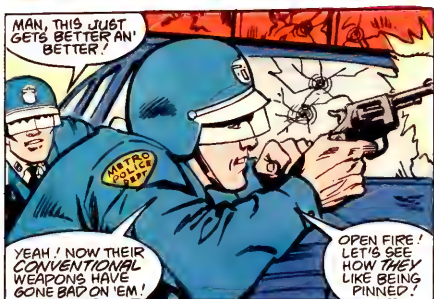
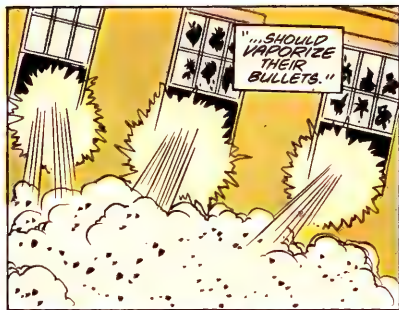


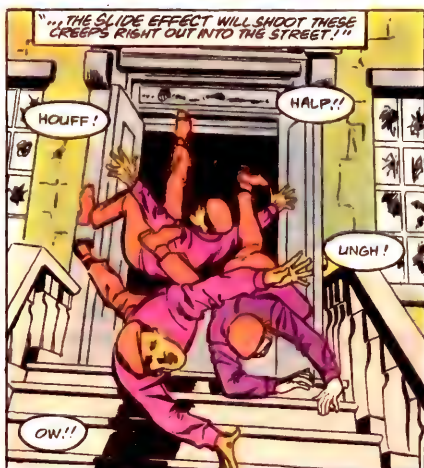














...DEAN REYNOLDS. IT WAS VERY GOOD OF YOU TO AGREE TO SEE ME.

MY PLEASURE, MR. KENT. METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY IS ALWAYS GLAD TO WELCOME STUDENTS WITH YOUR KIND OF GRADES.

THEN YOU'RE GOING TO ACCEPT MY APPLICATION.



WELL... I'D LIKE TO... YOU BROUGHT THE OTHER DOCUMENTATION I REQUESTED?



OH, DEAR. I WAS AFRAID OF THIS WHEN I HEARD YOUR MIDWEST ACCENT.

YOU SEE, YOUR SMALLVILLE HIGH DOESN'T HAVE THE NECESSARY ACCREDITATION FOR YOUR GRADES TO GET YOU INTO M. U.

I... THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.

I'M WILLING TO TAKE ANY TESTS YOU MIGHT FEEL NECESSARY, SIR, TO PROVE MYSELF.



WELL... IT'S UNUSUAL...

BUT ON THE CHANCE YOU'RE REALLY AS GOOD AS YOUR GRADES INDICATE...

PERHAPS WE CAN PREPARE SOMETHING...

THANK YOU, SIR.



"ALL I ASK IS A CHANCE..."

THAT WAS INTERESTING, WHAT DEAN REYNOLDS SAID ABOUT MY ACCENT.

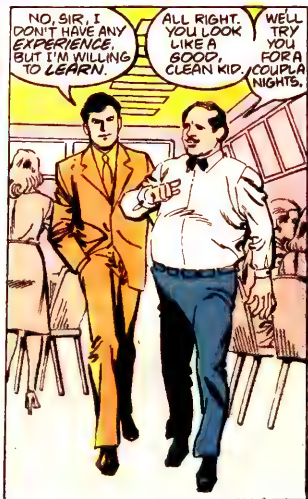
I SHOULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT LOSING IT.

PEOPLE IN BIG CITIES CAN BE VERY JUDGMENTAL ABOUT PEOPLE THEY THINK ARE HICKS...



AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I OUGHT TO DO.

I'M GOING TO NEED MONEY, AND MONEY MEANS A JOB.

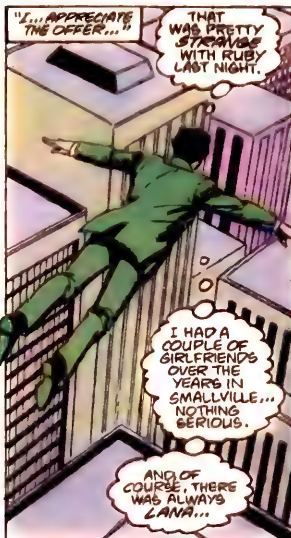
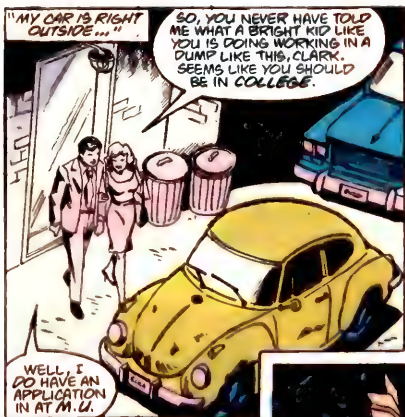


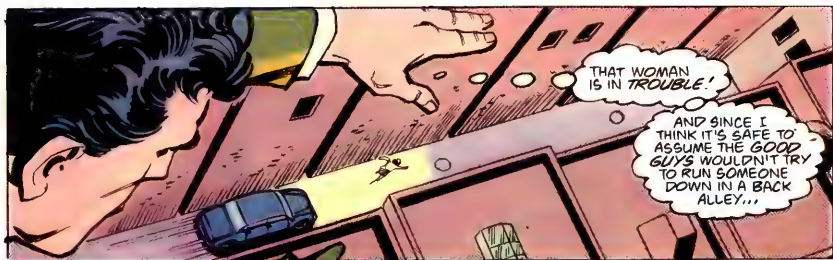
NO, SIR, I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE BUT I'M WILLING TO LEARN.

ALL RIGHT. YOU LOOK LIKE A GOOD, CLEAN KID.

WELL TRY FOR A COUPLE NIGHTS.





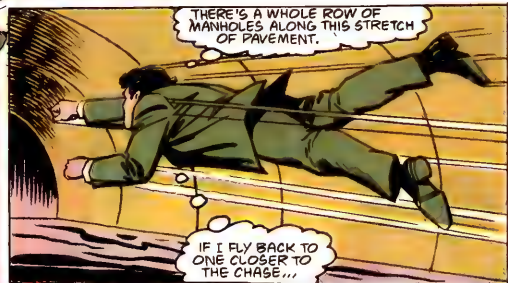


THAT WOMAN
IS IN TROUBLE!

AND SINCE I
THINK IT'S SAFE TO
ASSUME THE GOOD
GUYS WOULDN'T TRY
TO RUN SOMEONE
DOWN IN A BACK
ALLEY...



I THINK
I SHOULD
PROBABLY
HELP
HER.



THERE'S A WHOLE ROW OF
MANHOLES ALONG THIS STRETCH
OF PAVEMENT.

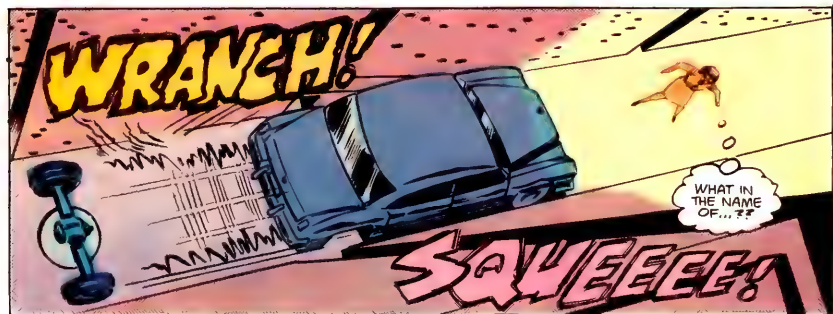
IF I FLY BACK TO
ONE CLOSER TO
THE CHASE...



"ALL I NEED TO DO IS
LET THE WOMAN GET
PAST..."



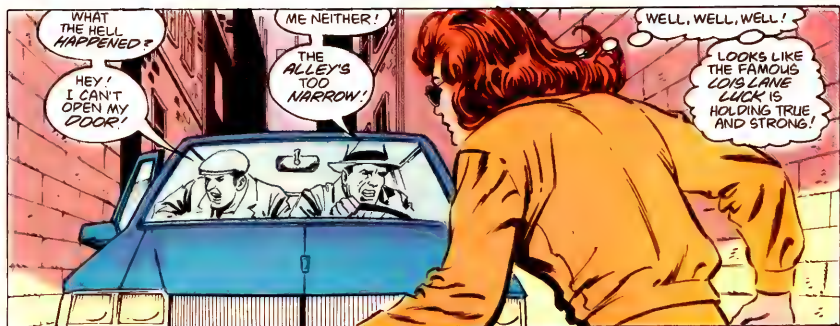
AND I CAN STOP
THIS CAR QUICK
AND EASY.



WRANCH!

SQUEEEEE!

WHAT IN
THE NAME
OF...??



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

HEY! I CAN'T OPEN MY DOOR!

ME NEITHER!

THE ALLEY'S TOO NARROW!

WELL, WELL, WELL!

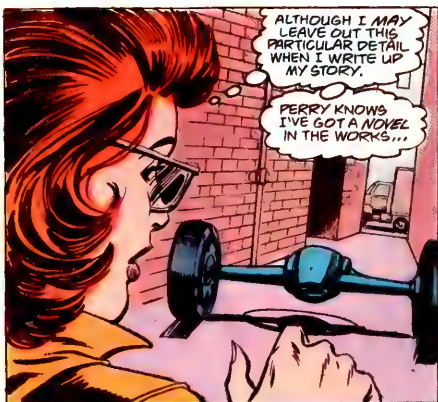
LOOKS LIKE THE FAMOUS COBBLER LUCK IS HOLDING TRUE AND STRONG!



YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I WALK ALL OVER YOU, BOYS...

BUT I HAVE A STORY TO TURN IN ON YOUR LITTLE MOB...

AND IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING IN FIVE YEARS AT THE DAILY PLANET IT'S THAT PERRY WHITE IS A DEMON FOR DEADLINES!



ALTHOUGH I MAY LEAVE OUT THIS PARTICULAR DETAIL WHEN I WRITE UP MY STORY.

PERRY KNOWS I'VE GOT A NOVEL IN THE WORKS...

HE'S ALWAYS GIVING ME A HARD TIME ABOUT THINGS IN MY PIECES THAT READ TOO MUCH LIKE FICTION.



SHE SAID SHE WORKS FOR THE DAILY PLANET.

NOW THERE'S AN INTERESTING NOTION.

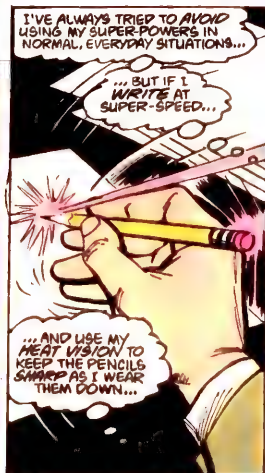
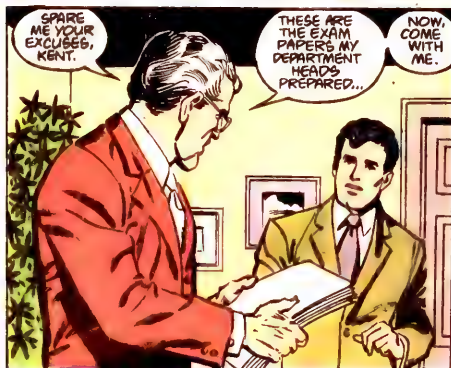
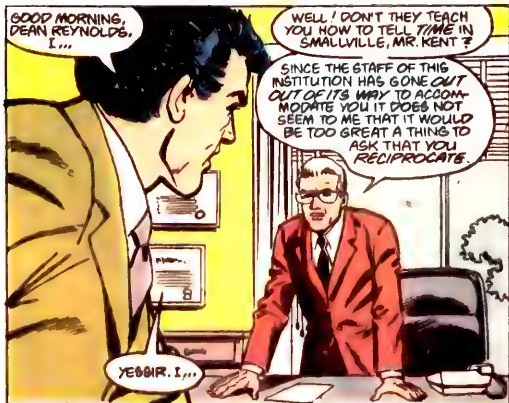


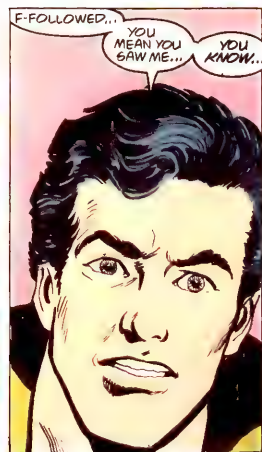
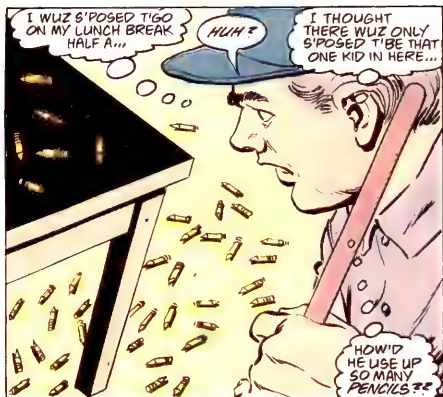
FINGER ON THE PULSE OF THE WORLD...

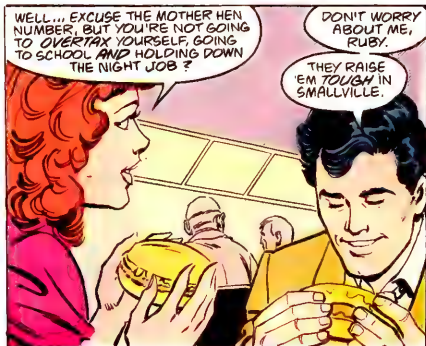
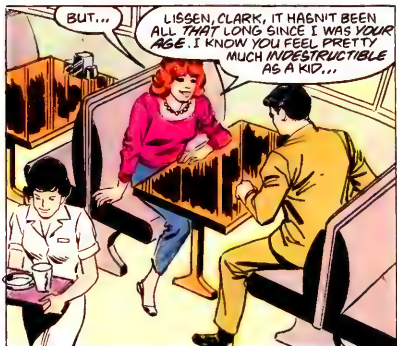
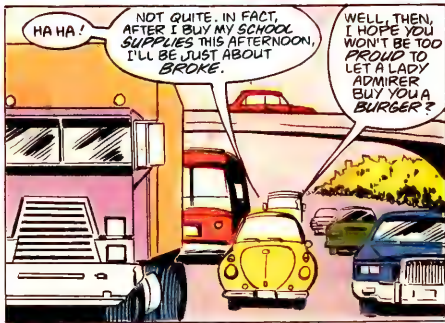
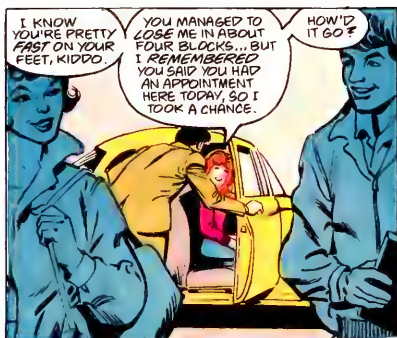
PLENTY OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT...

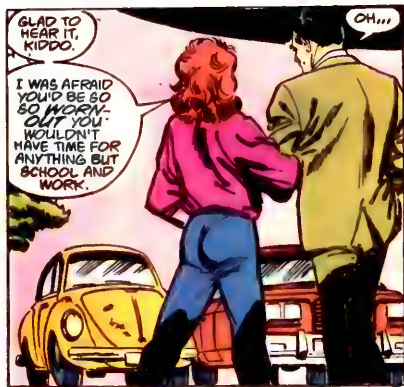
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY CAREER PLANS IN MIND. I JUST WANT THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION SO I'LL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE SOME OF THE ILLS OF THE WORLD.

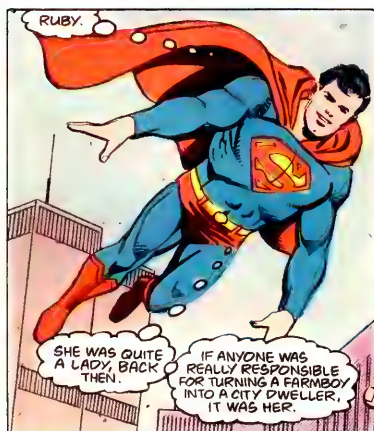
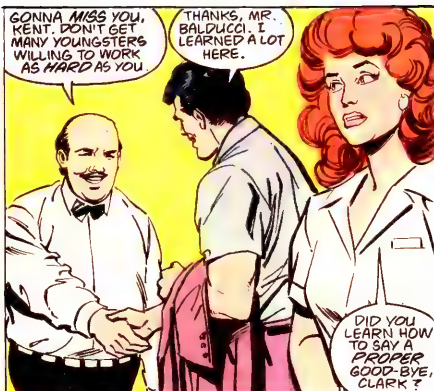
BUT A JOB AS A NEWSPAPER REPORTER...

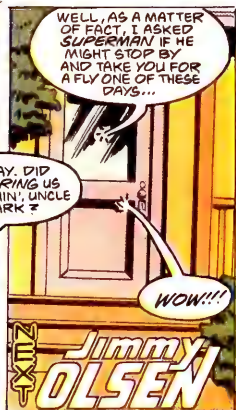
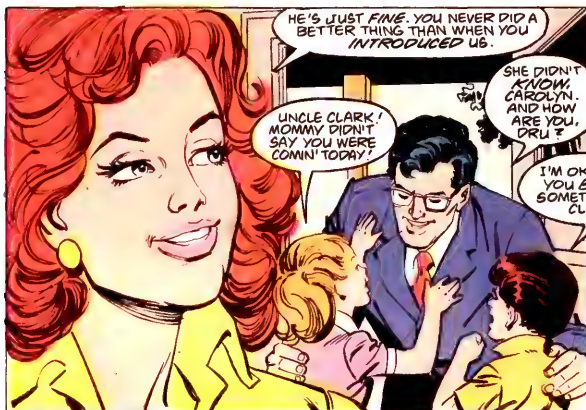
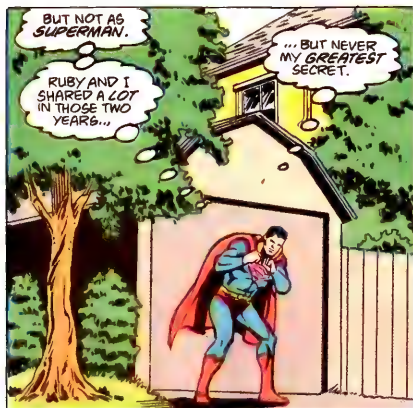


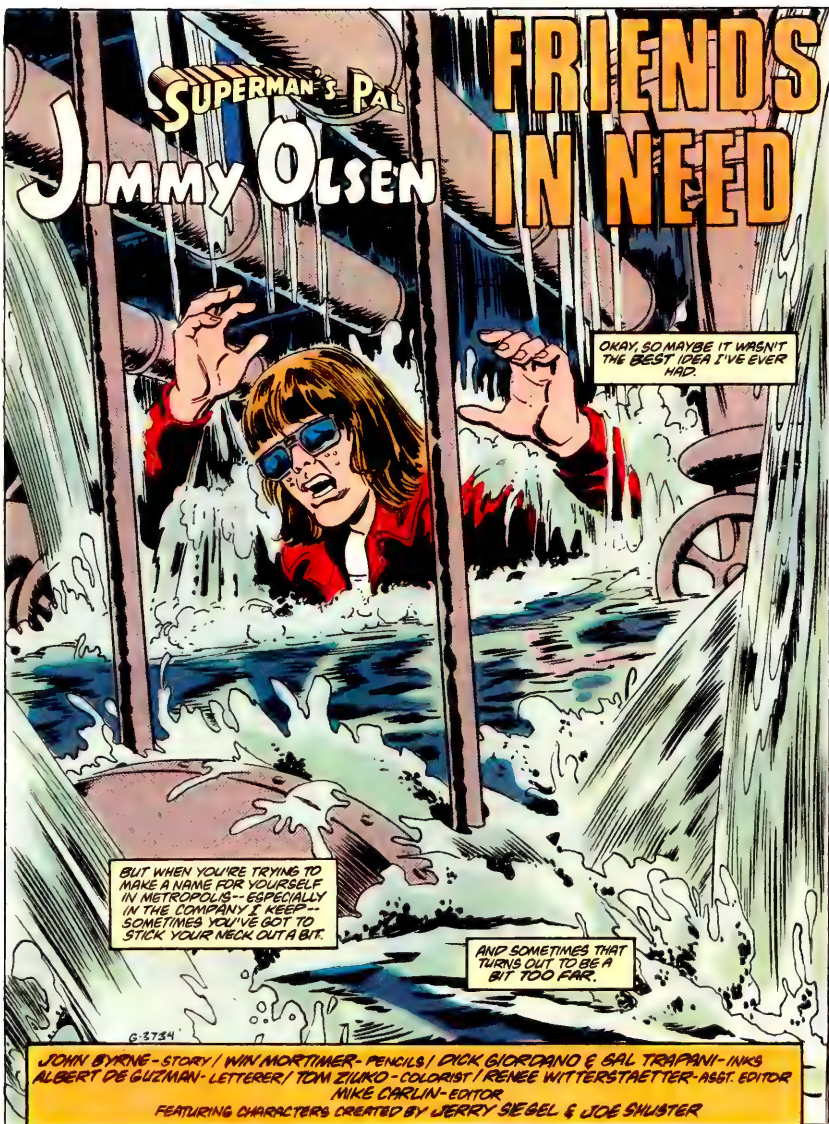








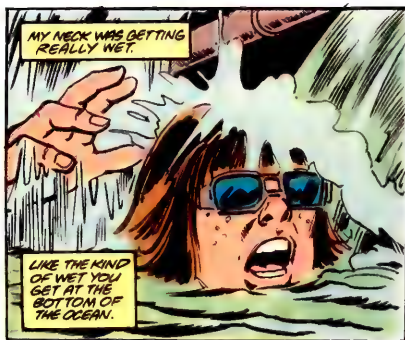




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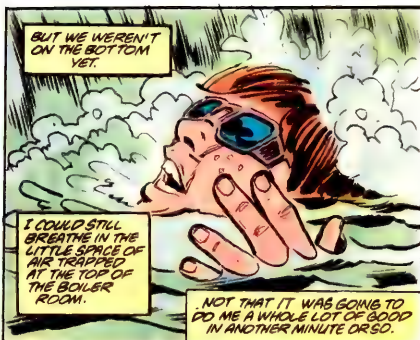
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MY NECK WAS GETTING REALLY WET.

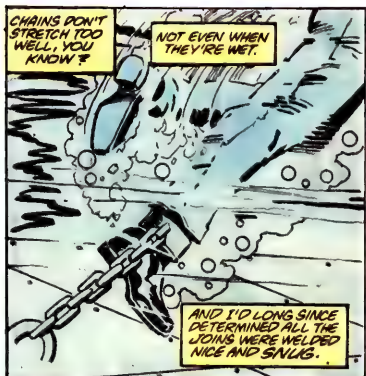
LIKE THE KIND OF WET YOU GET AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.



BUT WE WEREN'T ON THE BOTTOM YET.

I COULD STILL BREATHE IN THE LITTLE SPACE OF AIR TRAPPED AT THE TOP OF THE BOILER ROOM.

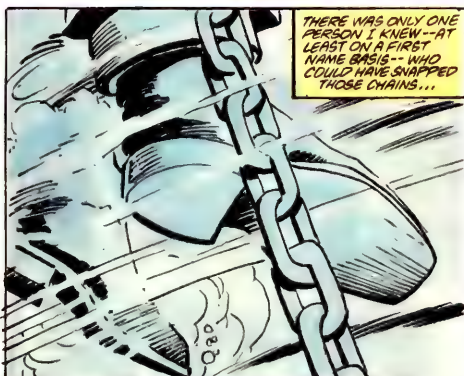
NOT THAT IT WAS GOING TO DO ME A WHOLE LOT OF GOOD IN ANOTHER MINUTE OR SO.



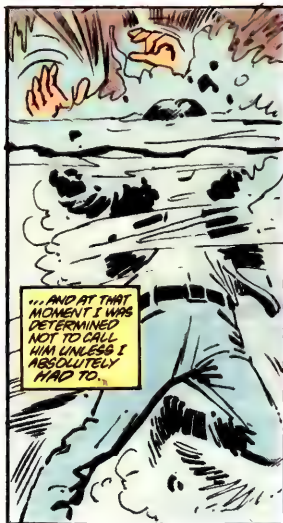
CHAINS DON'T STRETCH TOO WELL, YOU KNOW?

NOT EVEN WHEN THEY'RE WET.

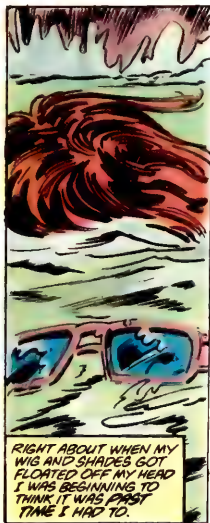
AND I'D LONG SINCE DETERMINED ALL THE JOINS WERE WELDED NICE AND SNUG.



THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON I KNEW--AT LEAST ON A FIRST NAME BASIS--WHO COULD HAVE SNAPPED THOSE CHAINS...



...AND AT THAT MOMENT I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO CALL HIM UNLESS I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO.



RIGHT ABOUT WHEN MY WIG AND SHADES GOT FLOATED OFF MY HEAD I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK IT WAS PAST TIME I HAD TO.



MY NAME'S JIMMY OLSEN, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T GUESS.

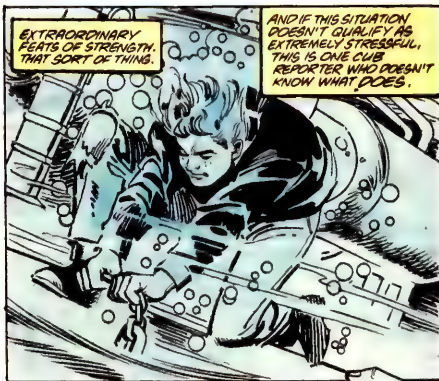
JAMES BARTHOLOMEW OLSEN, IT SAYS ON MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

SHOULD LOOK REAL NICE ON A TOMBSTONE, DON'T YOU THINK?



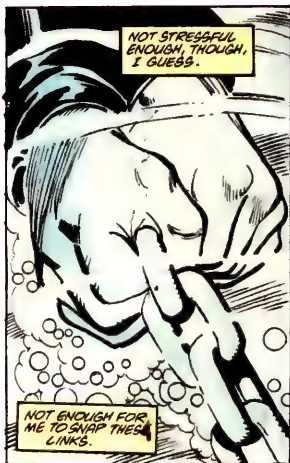
ONLY I DON'T GUESS THERE'S ANY REASON TO START CARVING JUST YET.

THEY DO SAY PEOPLE UNDER EXTREME STRESS CAN BE CAPABLE OF THE MOST AMAZING THINGS.



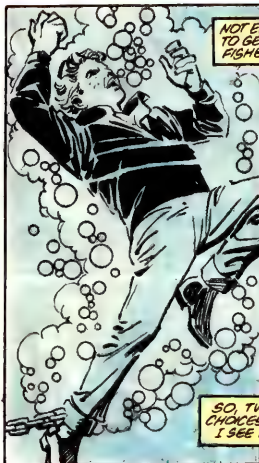
EXTRAORDINARY FEATS OF STRENGTH. THAT SORT OF THING.

AND IF THIS SITUATION DOESN'T QUALIFY AS EXTREMELY STRESSFUL, THIS IS ONE CUB REPORTER WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT DOES.



NOT STRESSFUL ENOUGH, THOUGH, I GUESS.

NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO SNAP THESE LINKS.

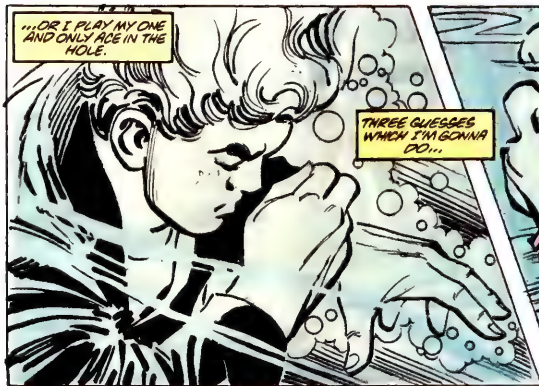


NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET OUT OF THIS FISHBOWL ALIVE.

SO, TWO CHOICES, AS I SEE IT.

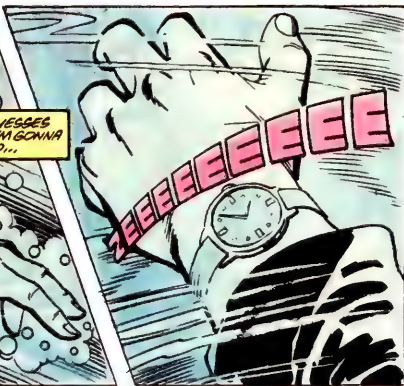


EITHER I GET REAL GOOD AT BREATHING UNDER WATER...

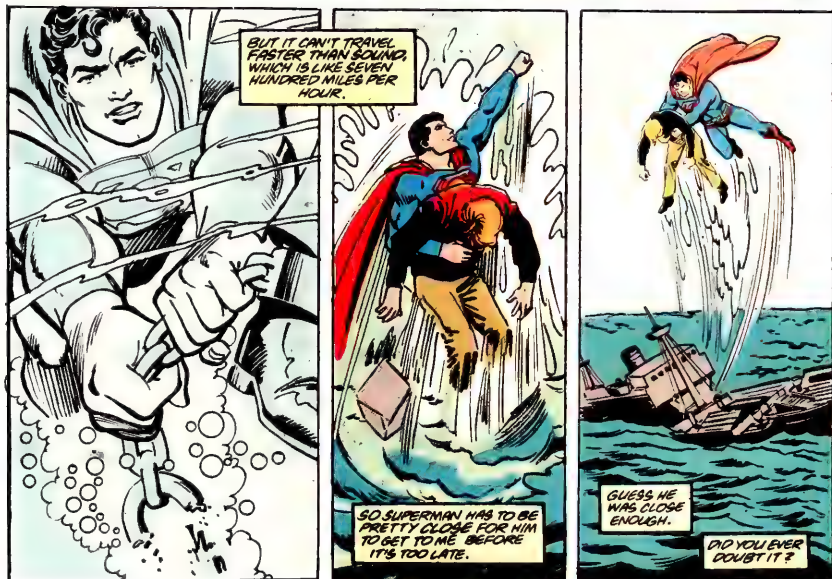
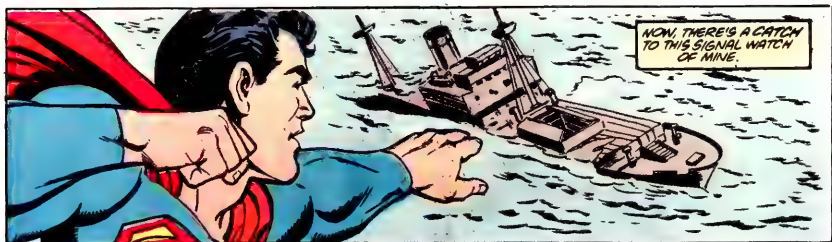


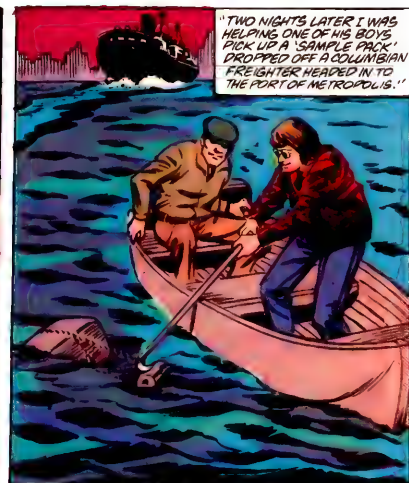
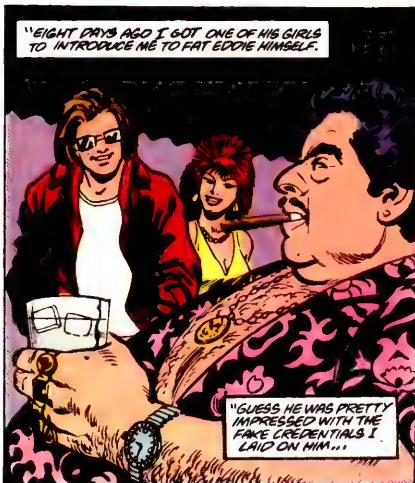
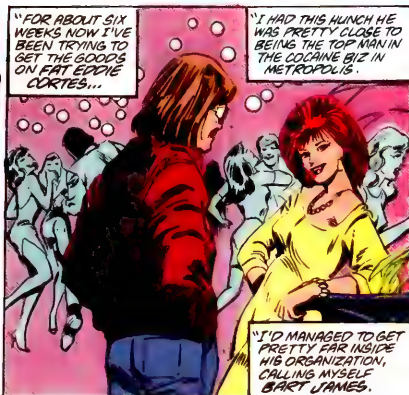
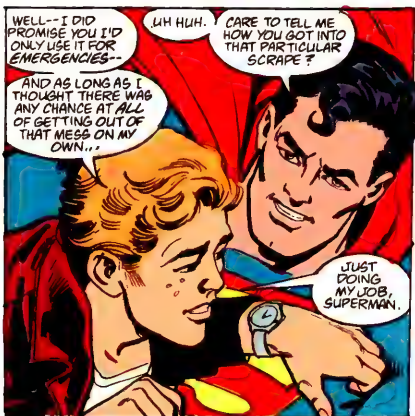
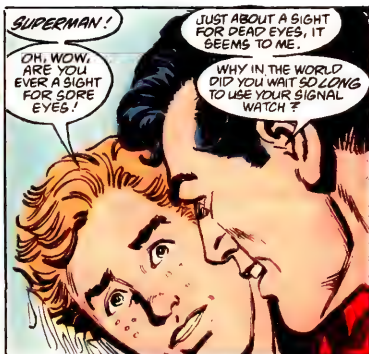
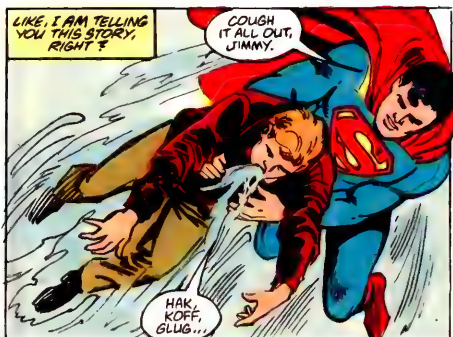
...OR I PLAY MY ONE AND ONLY ACE IN THE HOLE.

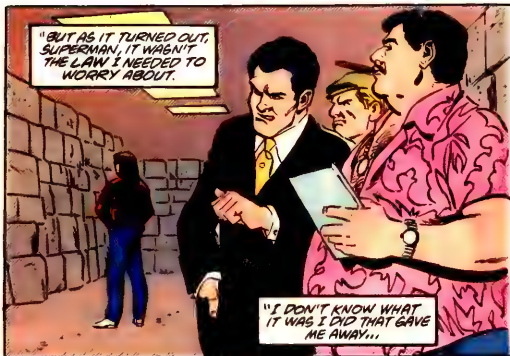
THREE GUESSES WHEN I'M GONNA DO...



EEEEEEEEEE









FUNNY...

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO THINK SUPERMAN DOESN'T HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR.

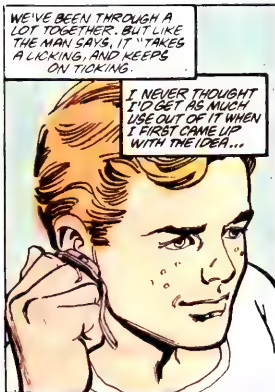
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO HAVEN'T HEARD THAT WIRY TONE IN HIS VOICE WHEN HE'S OFF TO KICK SOME BAD GUY'S BUTT.



SUPERMAN IS A GUY WHO ENJOYS HIS WORK.

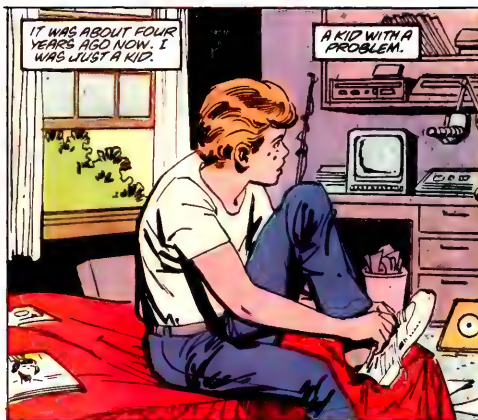
MAYBE AS MUCH AS I DO.

AND THIS OL' SIGNAL WATCH OF MINE IS THE TIE THAT BINDS US TOGETHER, SUPERMAN AND ME.



WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER. BUT LIKE THE MAN SAYS, IT "TAKES A LICKING, AND KEEPS ON TICKING."

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET AS MUCH USE OUT OF IT WHEN I FIRST CAME UP WITH THE IDEA...

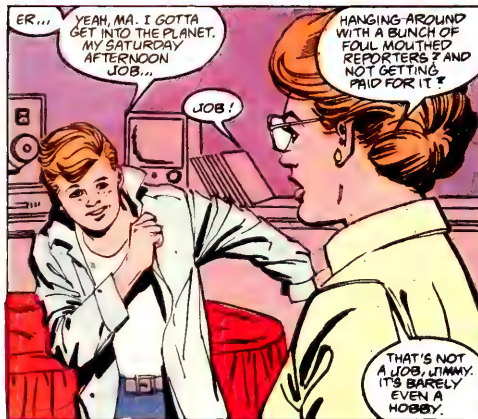


IT WAS ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO NOW. I WAS JUST A KID.

A KID WITH A PROBLEM.



YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE, JIMMY.



ER... YEAH, MA. I GOTTA GET INTO THE PLANET. MY SATURDAY AFTERNOON JOB...

JOB!

HANGING AROUND WITH A BUNCH OF FOUL MOUTHED REPORTERS? AND NOT GETTING PAID FOR IT?

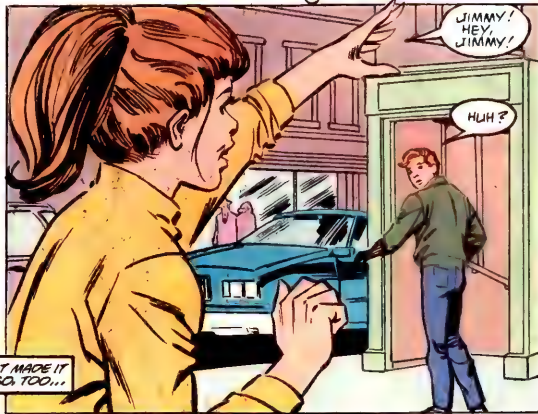
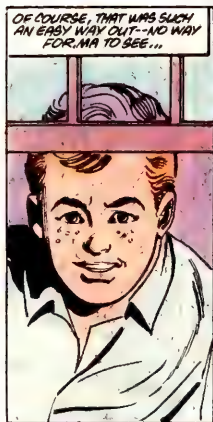
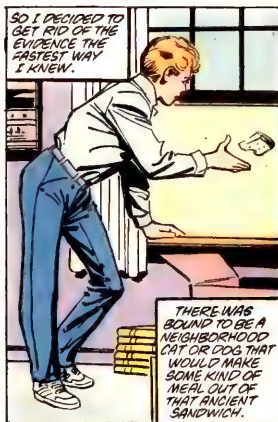
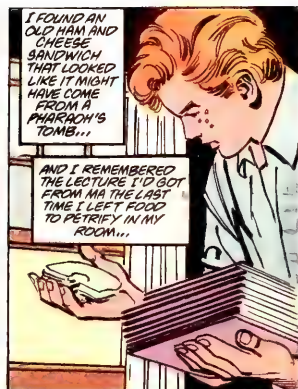
THAT'S NOT A JOB, JIMMY. IT'S BARELY EVEN A HOBBY.

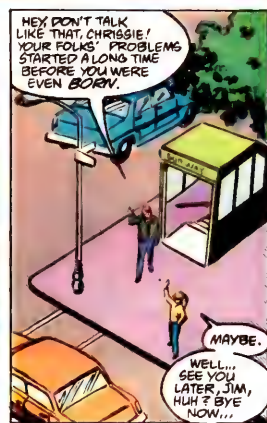
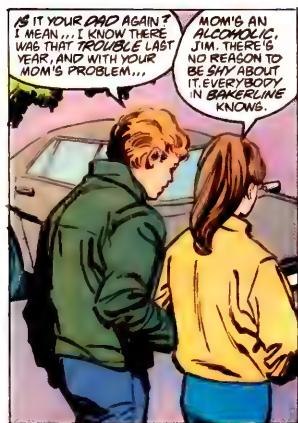
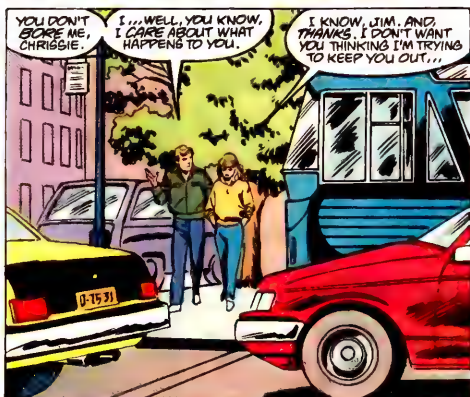
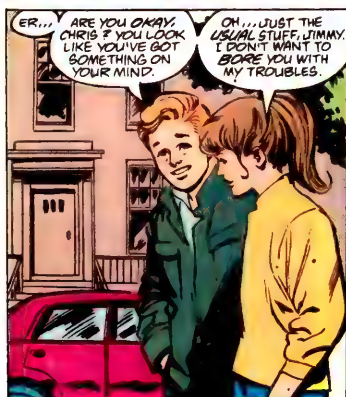
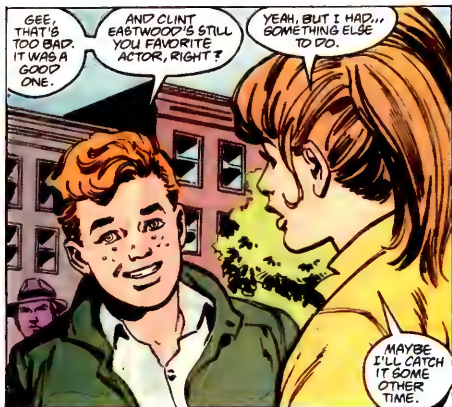
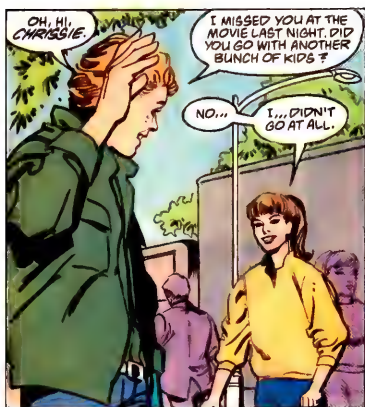


AND I TOLD YOU LAST NIGHT YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE TODAY UNTIL YOU FINISH CLEANING UP YOUR ROOM.

BUT, MA...

JUST DO IT, JIMMY!

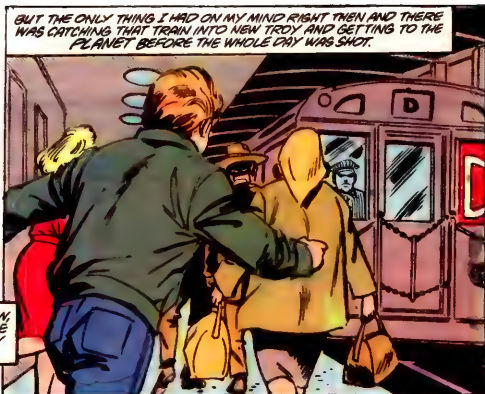




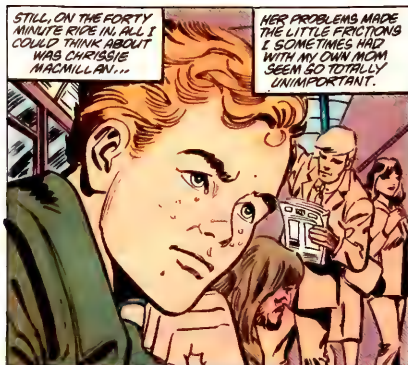


MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH HER.

LOOKING BACK NOW, ALL THE SIGNS WERE THERE, AND PRETTY OBVIOUS.

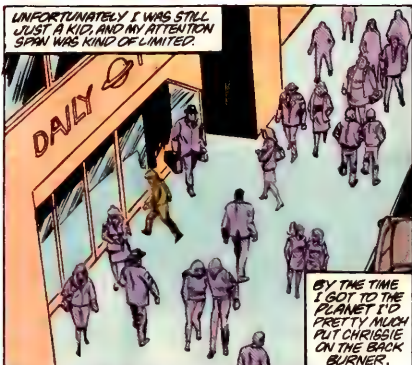


BUT THE ONLY THING I HAD ON MY MIND RIGHT THEN AND THERE WAS CATCHING THAT TRAIN INTO NEW TROY AND GETTING TO THE PLANET BEFORE THE WHOLE DAY WAS SHOT.



STILL, ON THE FORTY MINUTE RIDE IN, ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS CHRISSIE MACMILLAN...

HER PROBLEMS MADE THE LITTLE FRICTIONS I SOMETIMES HAD WITH MY OWN MOM SEEM SO TOTALLY UNIMPORTANT.



UNFORTUNATELY I WAS STILL JUST A KID, AND MY ATTENTION SPAN WAS KIND OF LIMITED.

BY THE TIME I GOT TO THE PLANET I'D PRETTY MUCH PUT CHRISSIE ON THE BACK BURNER.



OLSEN! THERE YOU ARE! IT'S ABOUT TIME.

I WANT THESE BOXES CARRIED UP TO EDITORIAL. PRONTO!

YESSIR, MR. KRUPPS!



AH, YES, THE GLAMOROUS LIFE IN THE NEWSPAPER BIZ!

HAULING XEROX PAPER FROM ONE ROOM TO THE NEXT.

VERY INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING.

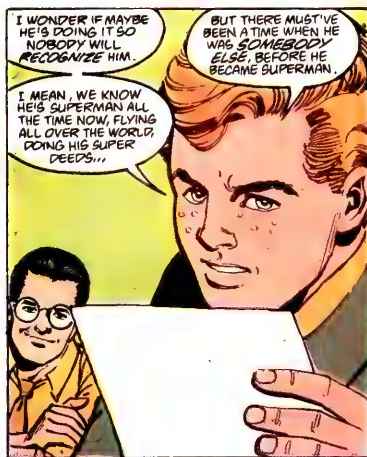
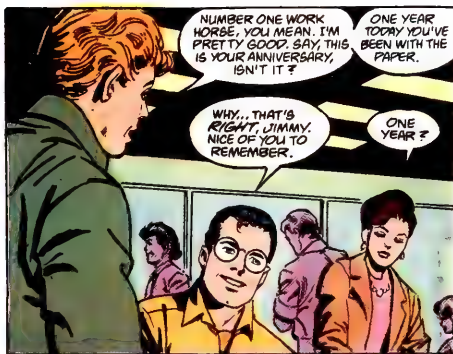


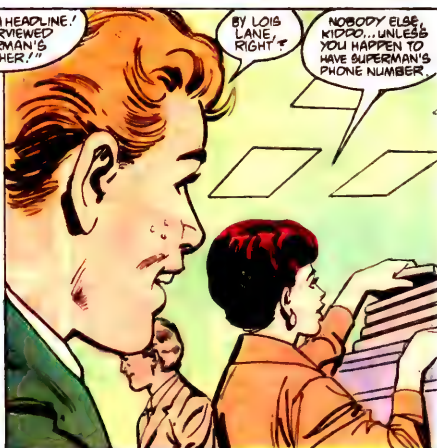
BUT THERE WERE MOMENTS TO FEED MY DREAMS...

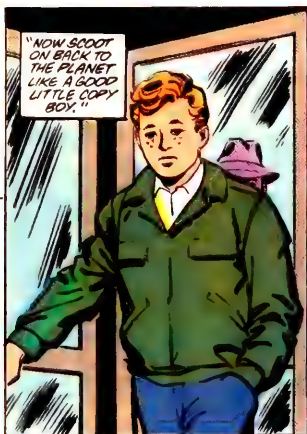
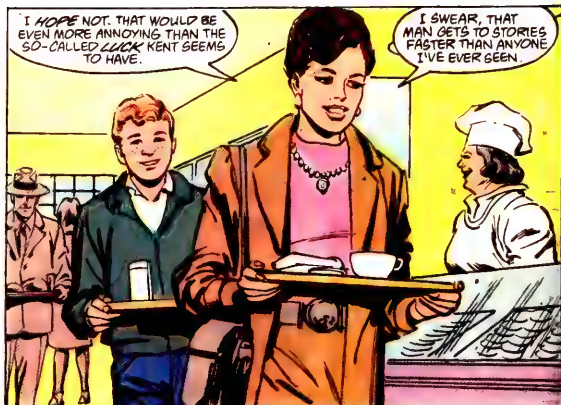
OUT OF THE WAY, OLSEN.

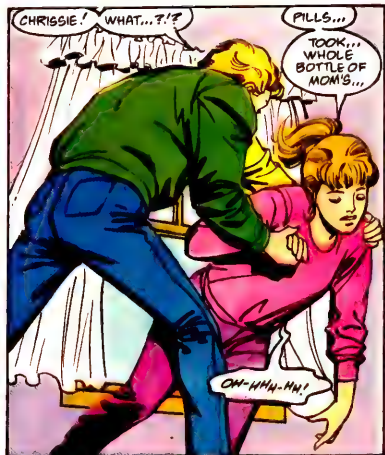
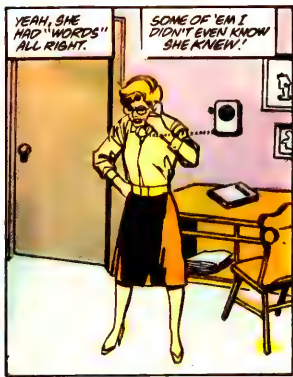
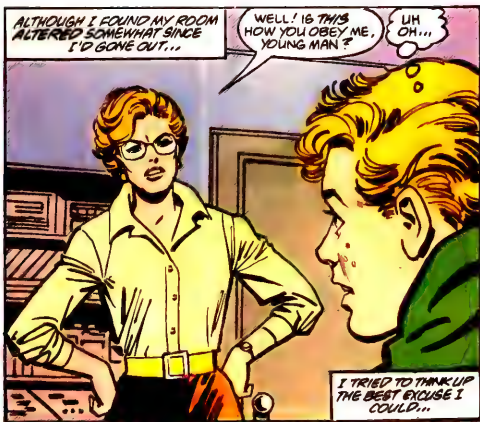
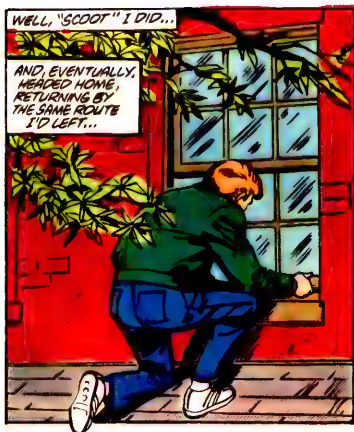
I GOT A HOT LEAD TO FOLLOW!

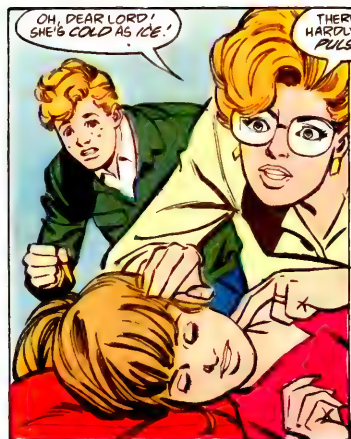
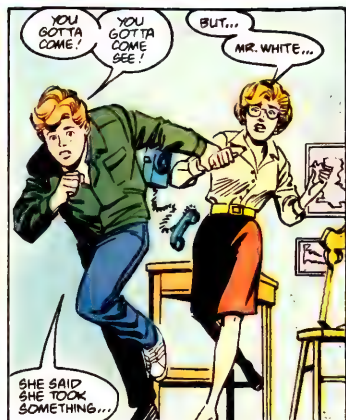
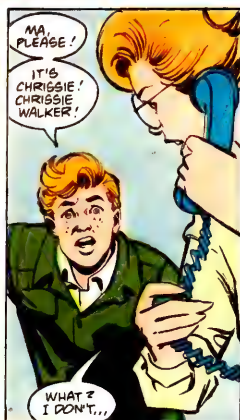
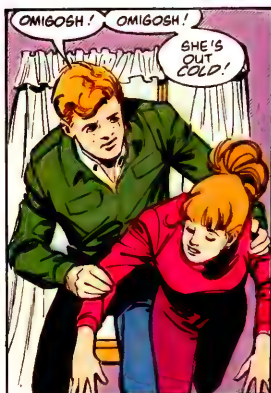
IT WASN'T UNTIL YEARS LATER I LEARNED MOST OF THOSE GUYS, IDEA OF A HOT LEAD WAS A GOOD TIP ON A HORSE...

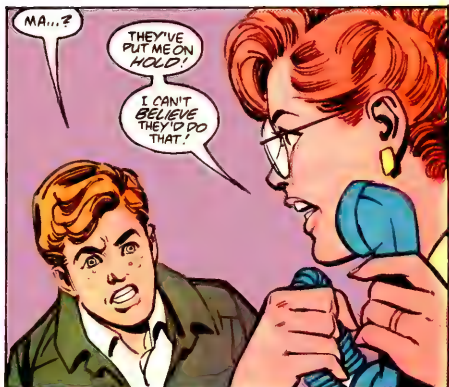


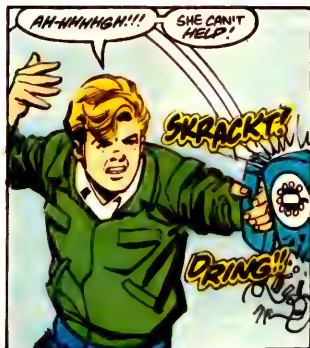




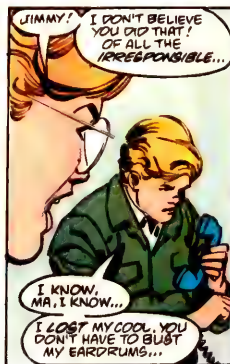


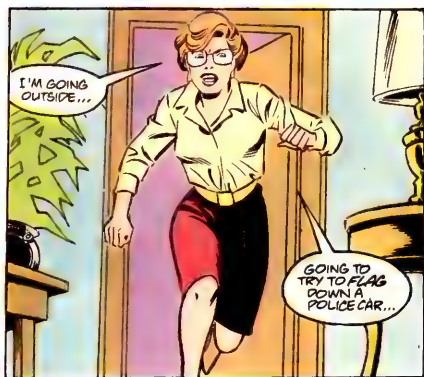
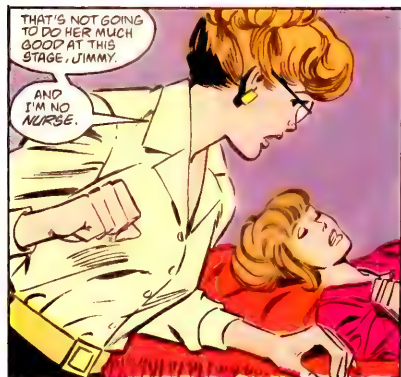
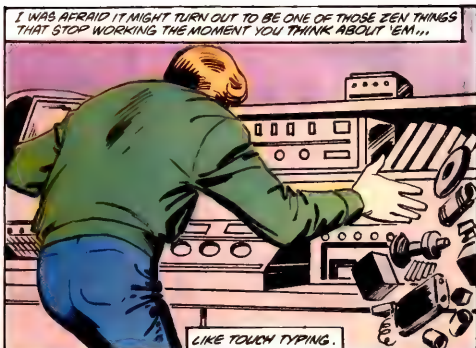


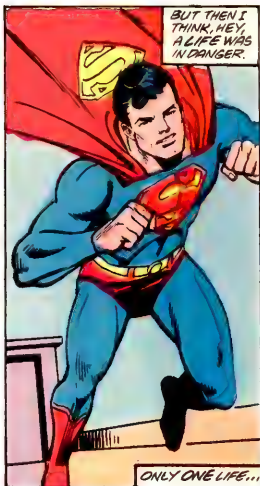
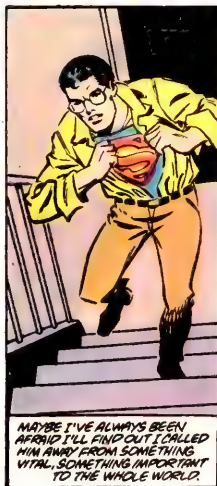
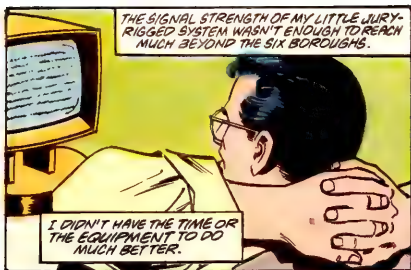
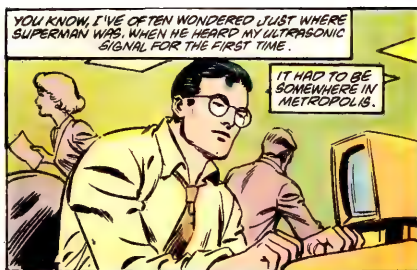


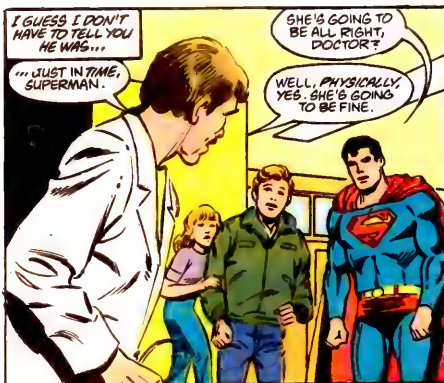


EVER NOTICE HOW THERE'S NOTHING SOUNDS MORE SILENT, THAN A DEAD PHONE?









I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HE WAS...

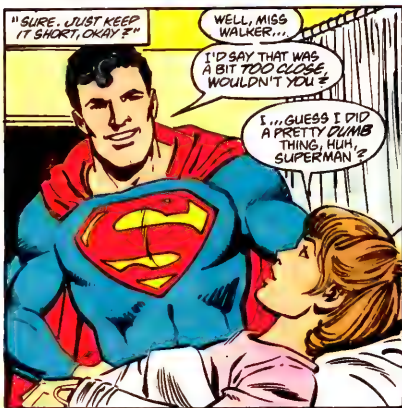
...JUST IN TIME, SUPERMAN.

SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR?

WELL, PHYSICALLY, YES, SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE.



THEN IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT IF I HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH HER?



"SURE, JUST KEEP IT SHORT, OKAY?"

WELL, MISS WALKER...

I'D SAY THAT WAS A BIT TOO CLOSE, WOULDN'T YOU?

I ... GUESS I DID A PRETTY DUMB THING, HUH, SUPERMAN?



WELL, PROBABLY NOT THE SMARTEST THING YOU'LL EVER DO.

CARE TO TRY TELLING ME WHY YOU DID IT? OR WOULD I BE TOO FAR OFF IF I GUESSED IT WAS SOME KIND OF CRY FOR HELP?

YEAH... I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THAT, SUPERMAN.



EVERYTHING'S BEEN SO MESSED UP FOR ME... MY DAD... MY MOM...

IT SEEMED LIKE THERE WAS NOBODY IN THE WORLD WHO CARED WHETHER I LIVED OR DIED, YOU KNOW?

IT FELT LIKE I WAS ALL ALONE. AND... I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO GO ON AND ON, YEAR AFTER YEAR, ALL ALONE.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE, CHRISSIE.

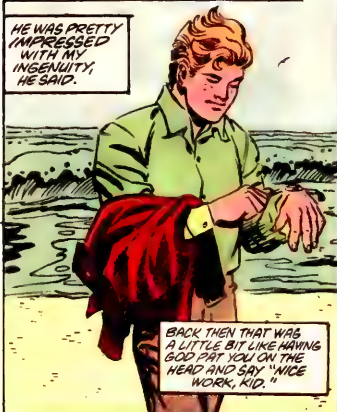
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD FRIEND IN JIMMY OLSEN...

AND NOW YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME...

OH... WOW!

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME, THE FIRST TIME I THOUGHT TO USE A HYPERSONIC SIGNAL TO CONTACT SUPERMAN.

HE WAS PRETTY IMPRESSED WITH MY INGENUITY, HE SAID.



BACK THEN THAT WAS A LITTLE BIT LIKE HAVING GOD PAT YOU ON THE HEAD AND SAY "NICE WORK, KID."

OF COURSE, SUPERMAN ISN'T A GOD.

HE'S JUST A FRIEND.

MAYBE THE BEST FRIEND ANYONE--EVER HAD.



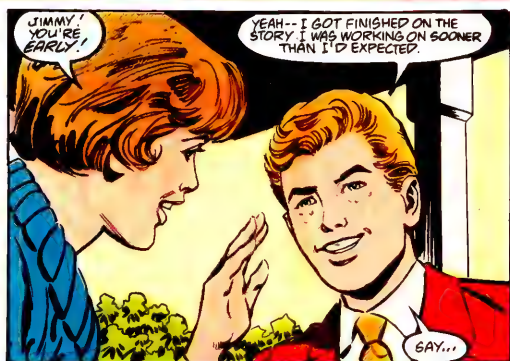
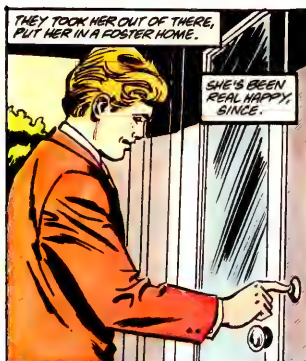
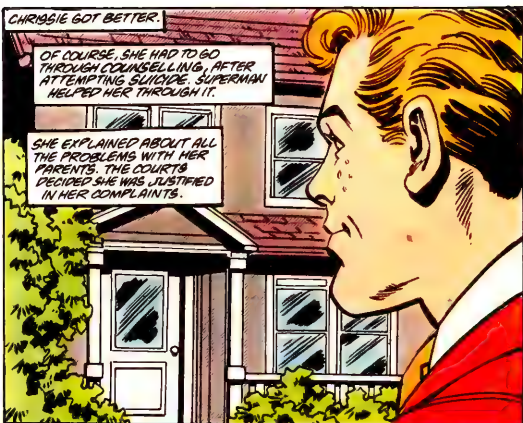
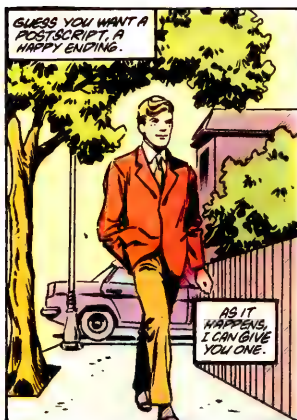
TOO BAD MY MA DIDN'T GET TO MEET HIM THEN. SHE WAS STILL OUT LOOKING FOR A POLICE CAR.

STILL, THEY FINALLY DID MEET, A WHILE AGO, AND I COULD TELL SHE WAS IMPRESSED.



WHO WOULDN'T BE ?





THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

AMMAN, JORDAN,
MIDDLE EAST.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

EXTRA

DAILY



PLANET

April 8, 1988

35 Cents



Read Rex's
Inside Hollywood
for Review of
Scuba II.
Info on page 5



Superman hit the terrorist nation of Qurac like a storm some months ago, wiping out its army, navy and air force in retaliation for the tiny nation's actions around the world. While leaders of the world applauded this action, privately they expressed concern that Superman would one day turn his awesome might on one of them.

Wife of Captive Journalist Appeals for Superman's Help

by Clark Kent of the Planet

The wife of a Metropolis journalist abducted one year ago in Beirut marked the anniversary of his capture with an appeal to Superman to help secure his freedom.

Ethel Kanfeld told reporters that she has exhausted all other means to free her husband. "The State Department told me they were doing all they could, but the terrorists haven't mentioned him publicly since he was first taken,"

she said. "It has been one year now, twelve long, lonely months. I need to know if he's dead or alive."

Reports have circulated indicating Kanfeld was executed after Superman's actions in Qurac a few months back, but U.S. officials questioned the source of these stories. The Islamic Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the reporter's abduction and had offered to swap him for I.L.A. prisoners held here.



Journalist Henry Kanfeld

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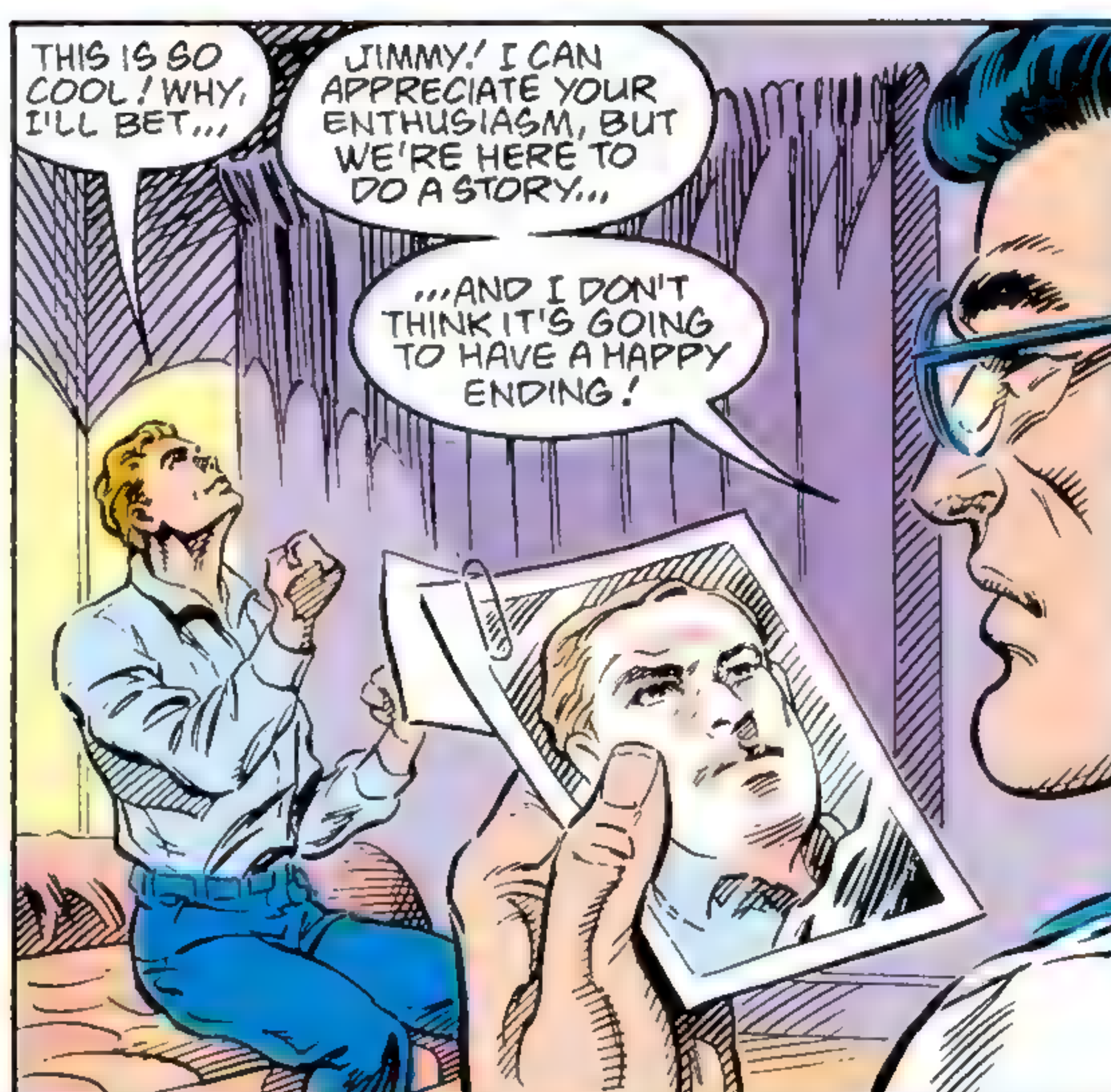
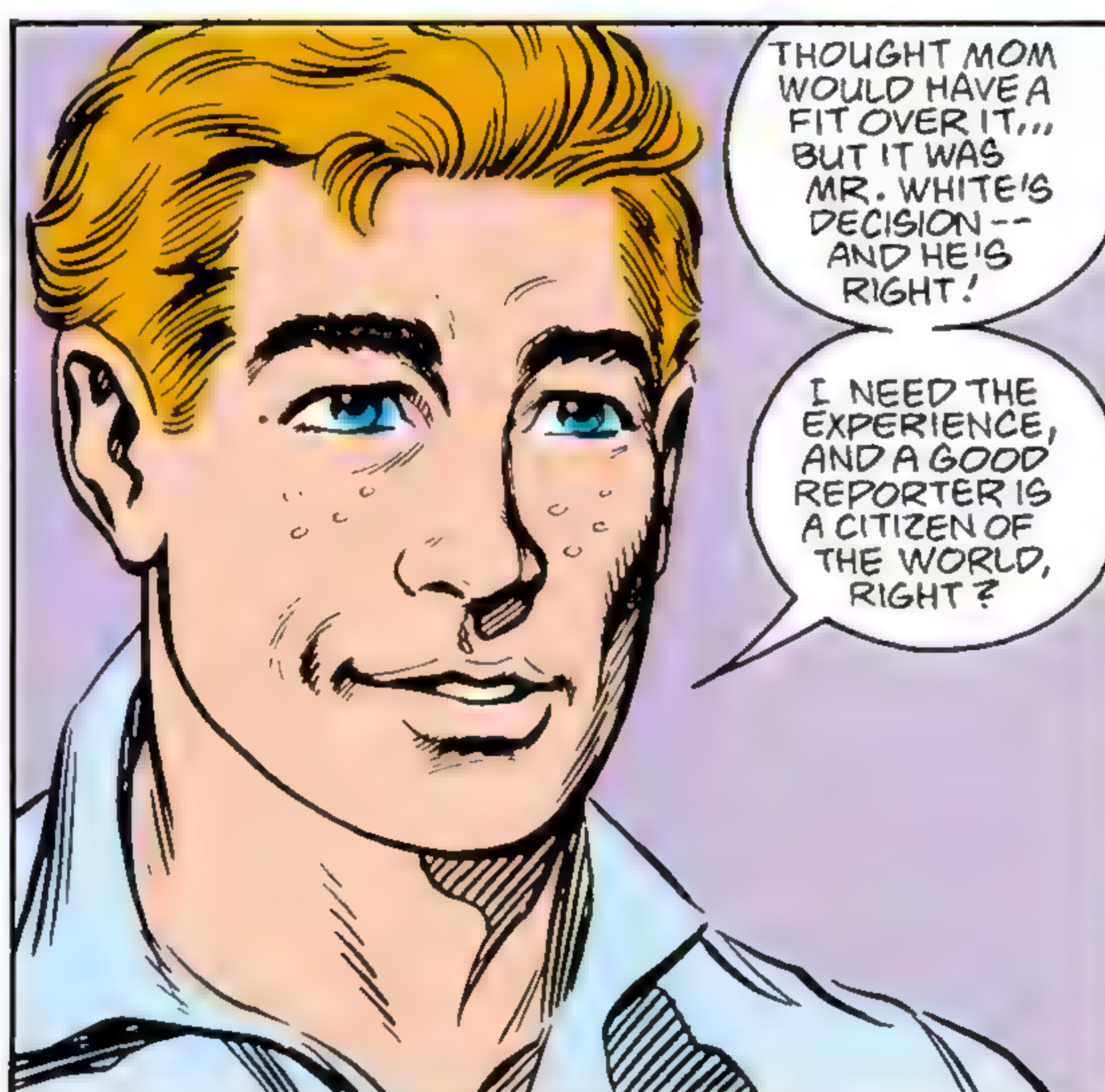
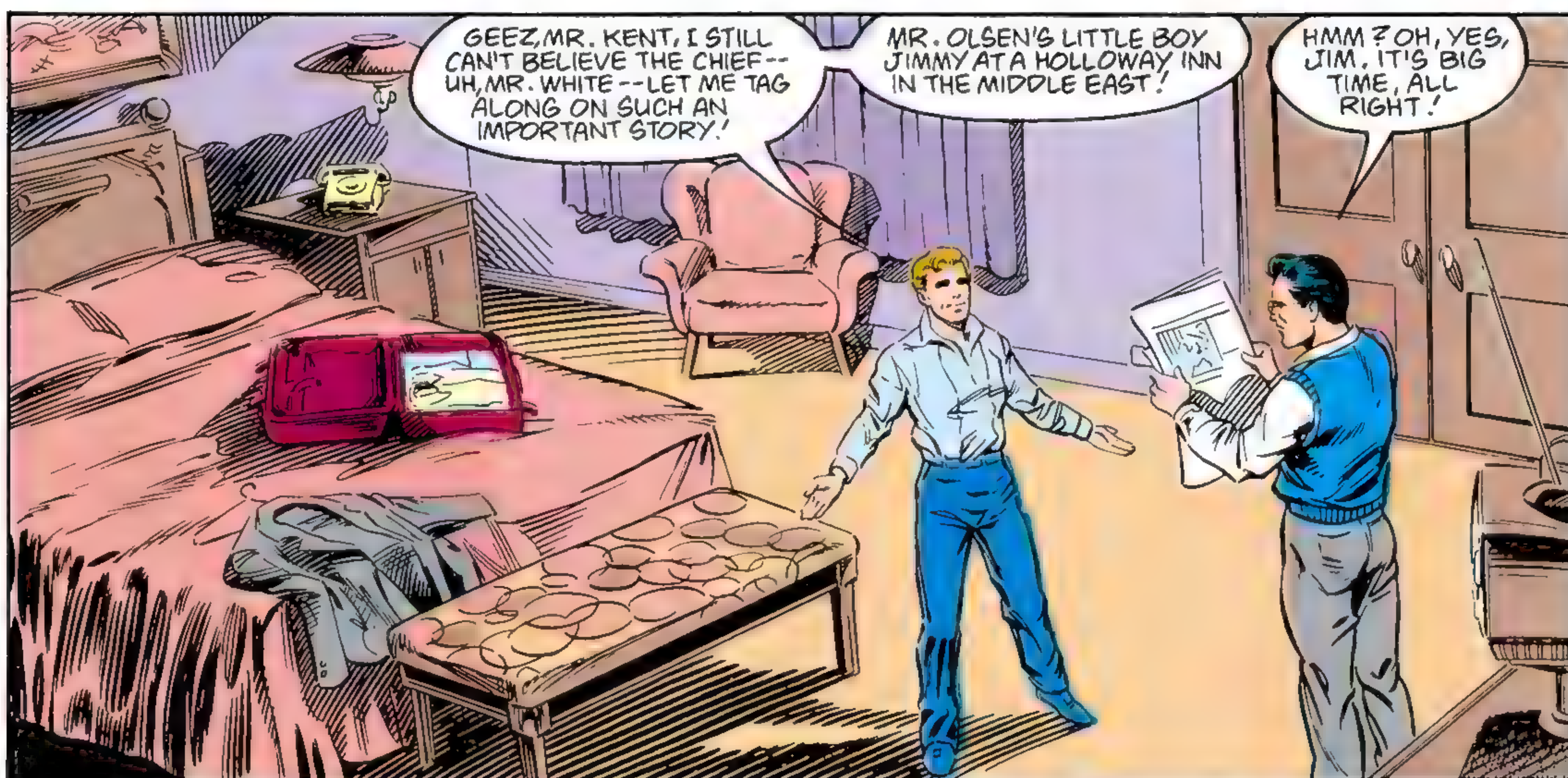
I.L.A. Claims More Hostages Will Die

International Press Group

The Islamic Liberation Army issued the following statement to the Foreign Press Corps: "Our hostages denounce Superman and his actions against the friendly nation of Qurac. His interventions in our lands shall result in the deaths of his countrymen now held by our liberators. Henry Kanfeld was the first but shall not be the last to die pointlessly."

State Department officials speculate that President Mario of Qurac is no longer financing many of the terrorist factions because of the costs of re-arming his own country's armed forces.

While we all welcomed Superman's help, there's no denying it had a rippling effect on the rest of the Middle East.



HAVING JIMMY AROUND FORCES ME TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE. AS SUPERMAN, I'M TOO VISIBLE.

I NEED INFORMATION ON KANFELD AND WHOEVER ELSE THESE TERRORISTS HAVE UNDER LOCK AND KEY, BUT I DON'T WANT THIS TO TURN INTO A REPLAY OF MY ACTIONS IN QURAC.*

*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #427

IDEALLY, I NEED TO BE ABLE TO SLIP IN, GRAB THE HOSTAGES, BRING THESE TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE AND SLIP BACK OUT-- WITHOUT ADDING TO THE TENSIONS HERE.

JIM, YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR SUITCASE UNPACKED.

WE'VE GOT A BUSY EVENING AHEAD OF US!

WE'RE MEETING MY COLLEAGUE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS IN FIFTEEN MINUTES IN THE LOBBY.

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORTS!

SURE THING, MR. KENT... AND DON'T WORRY. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

HE'S A QUICK, RESOURCEFUL KID...

...BUT WHERE WE'RE GOING, WE'LL NEED SUPERMAN CLOSE BY AS WELL!

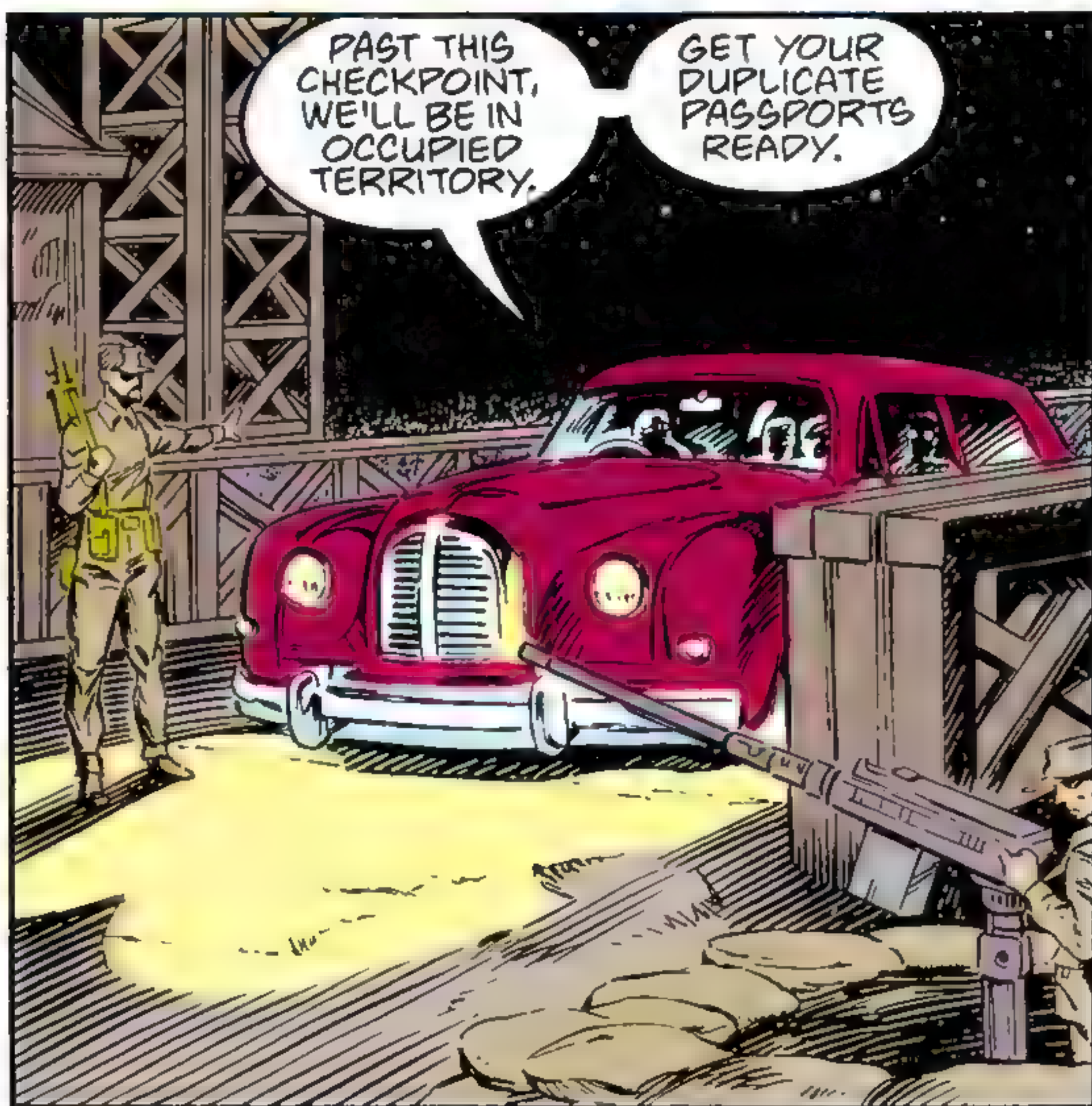
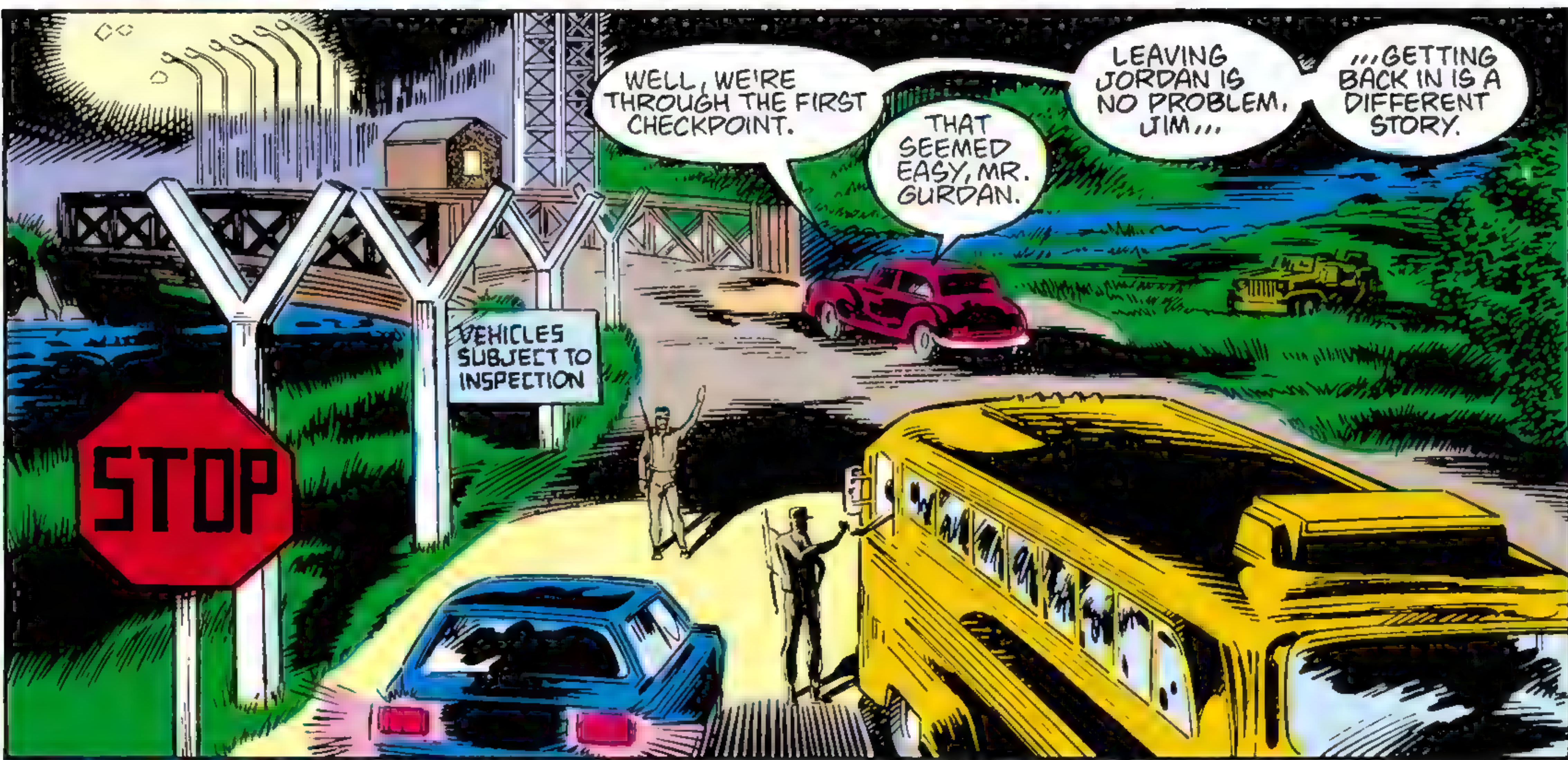
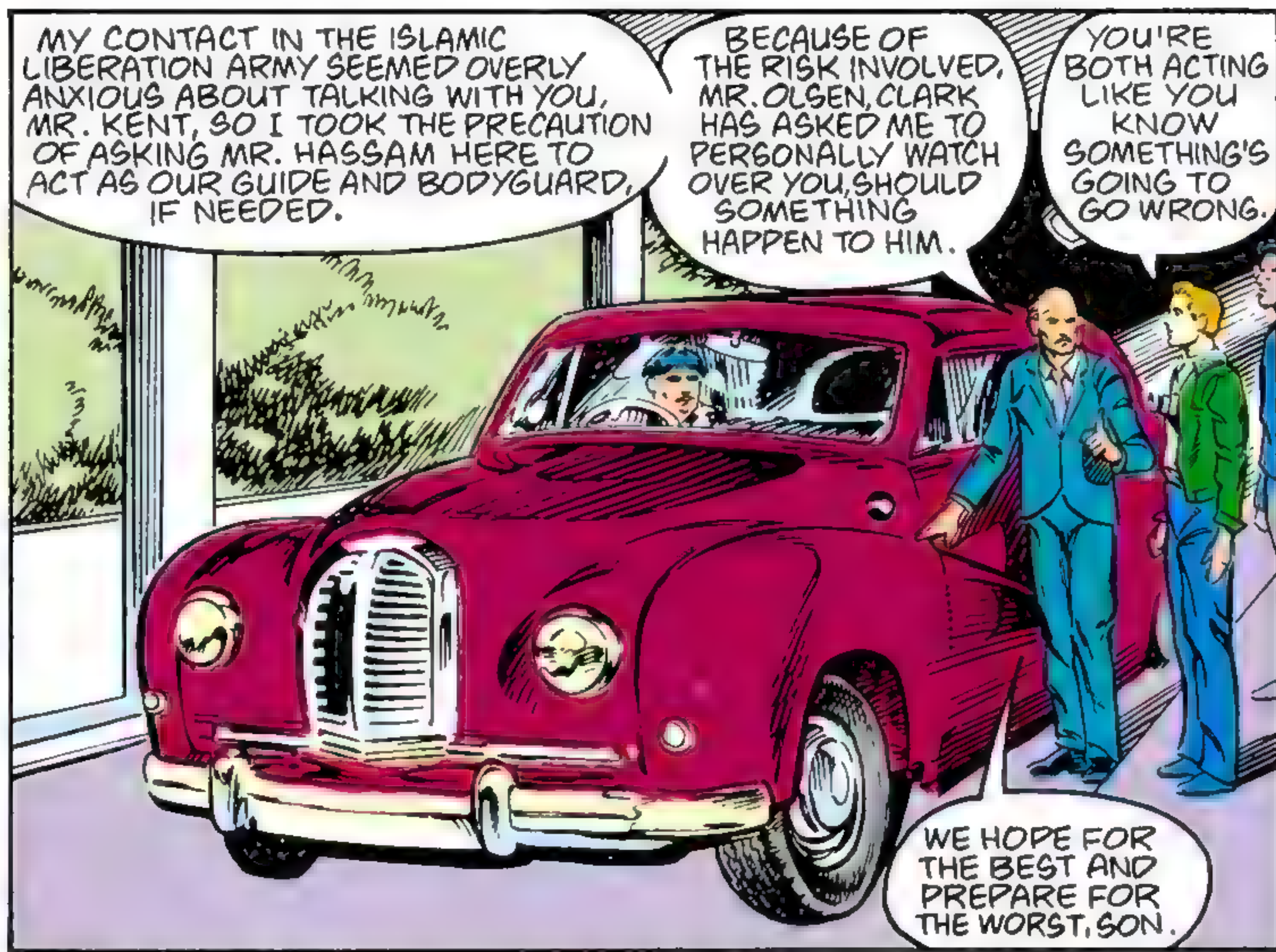
EXACTLY FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

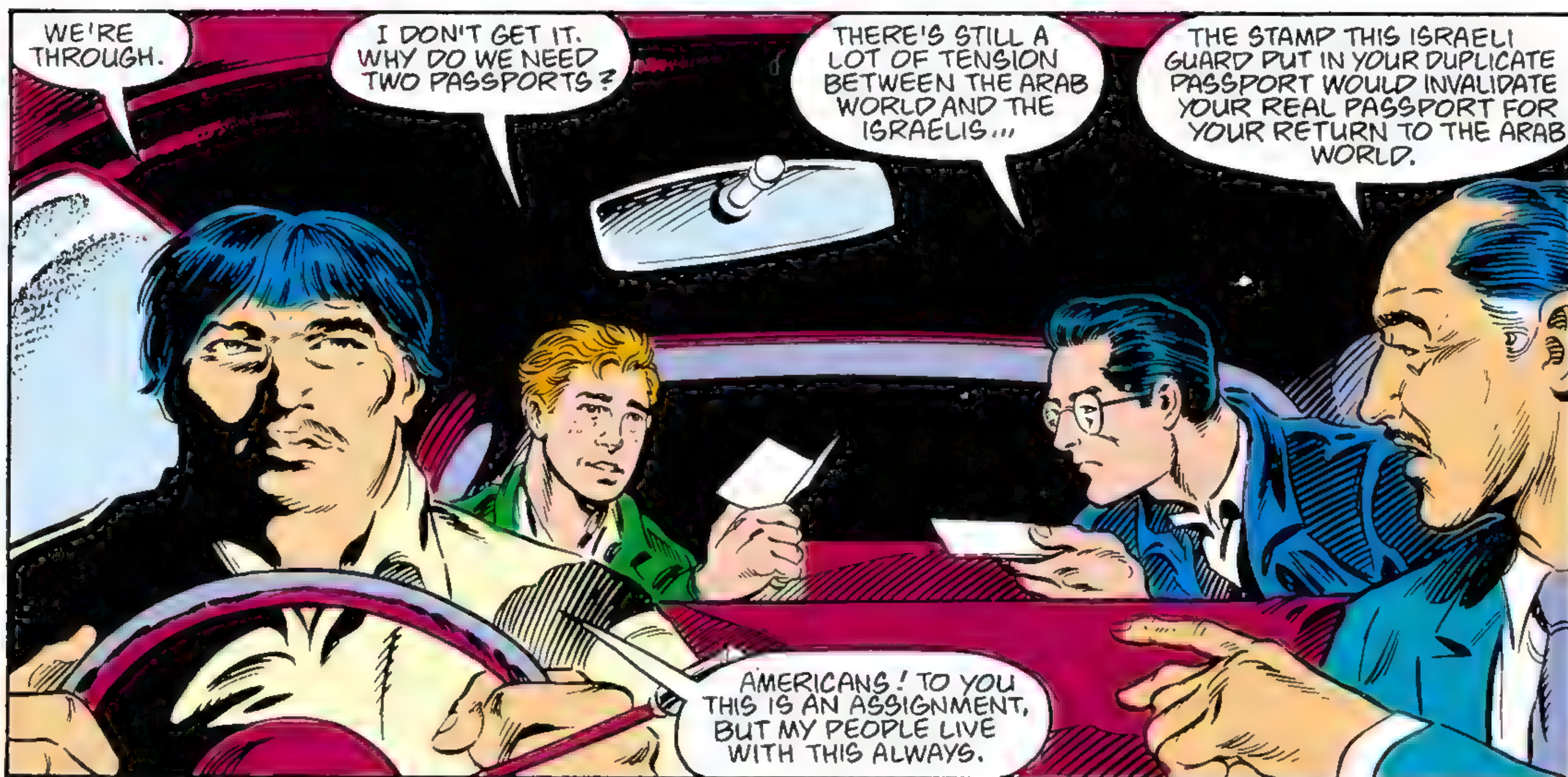
JAWAD! HOW'S THE OLD WAR HORSE?

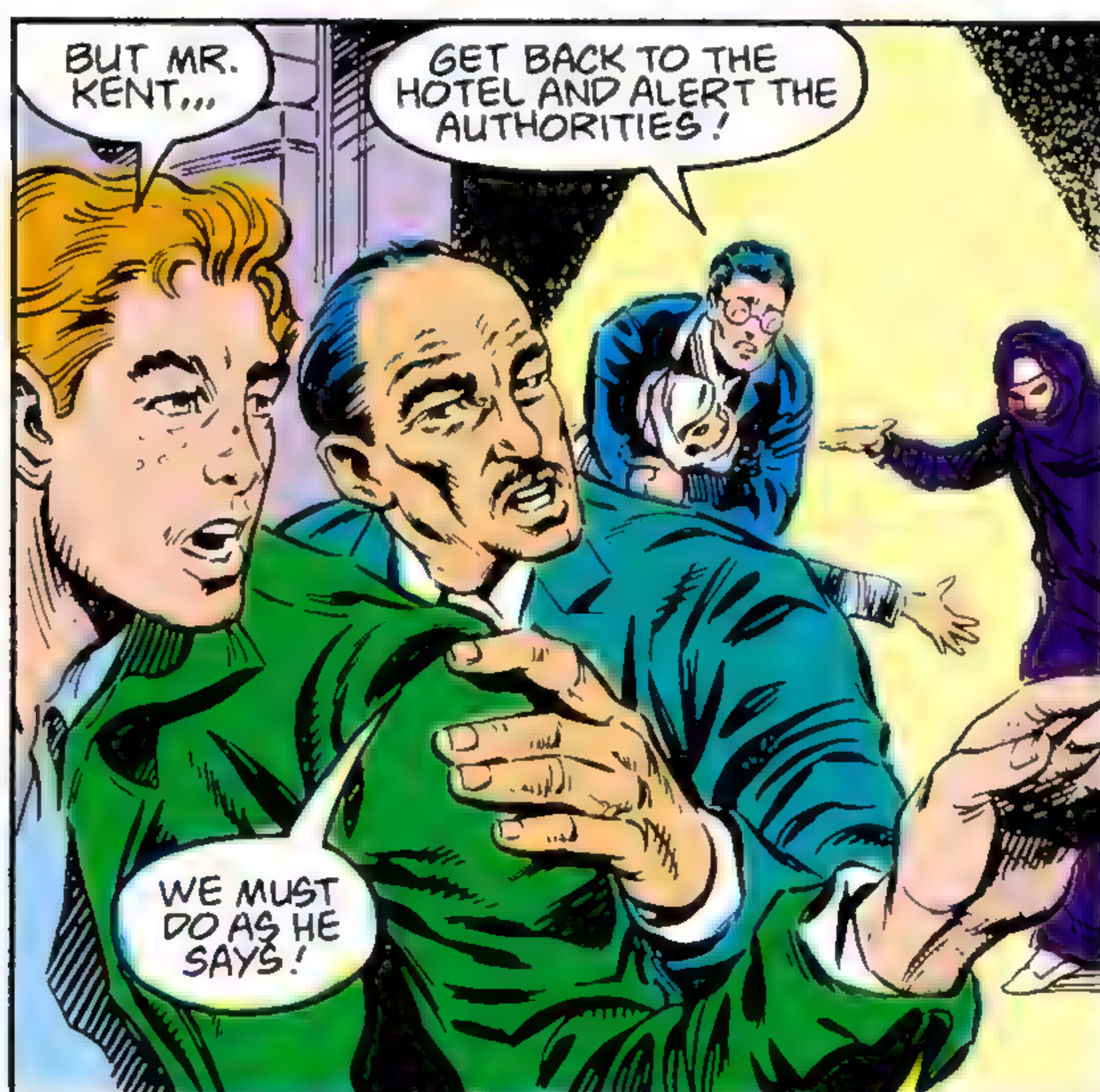
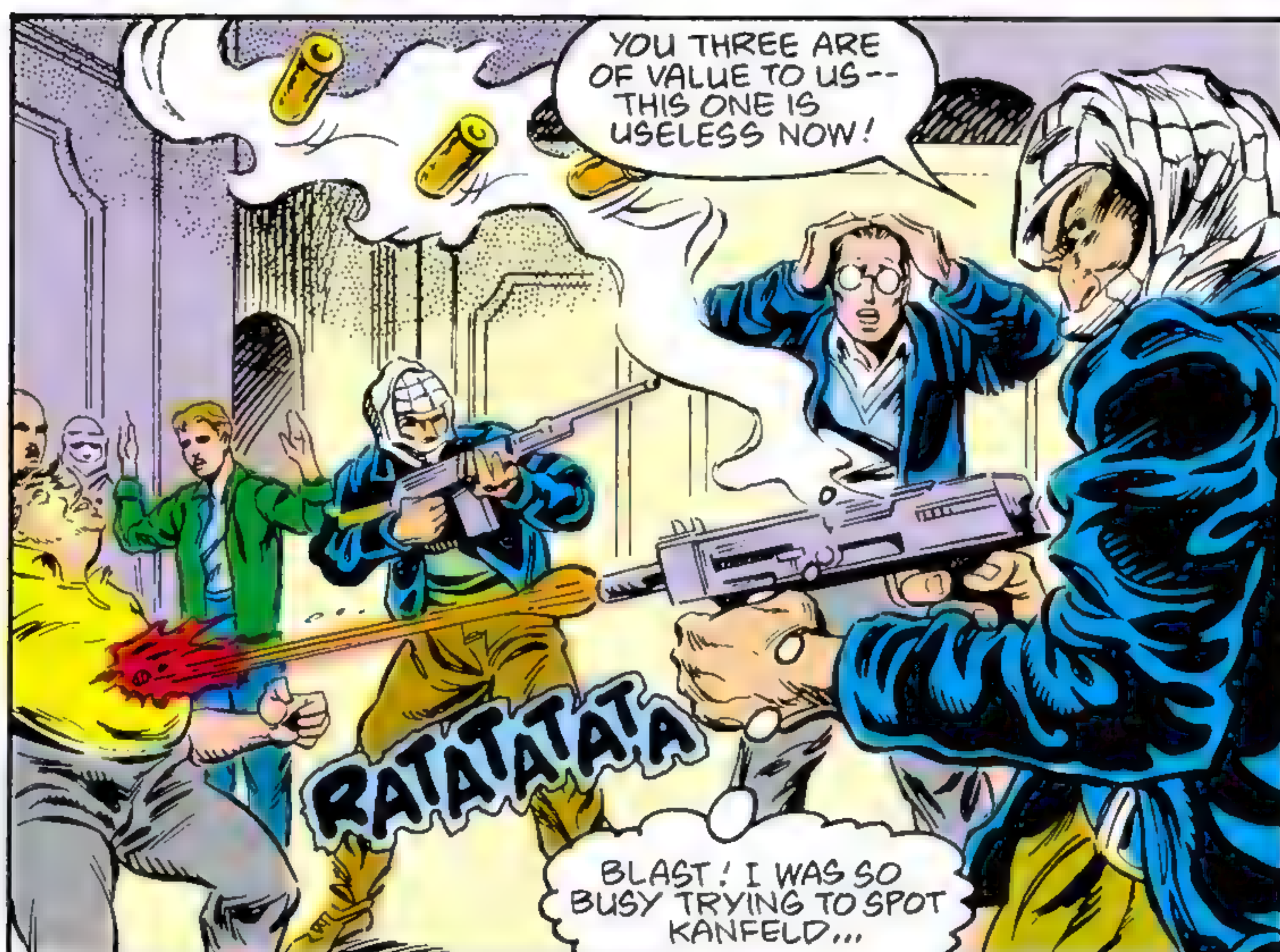
AH, MR. KENT! ON TIME AS USUAL!

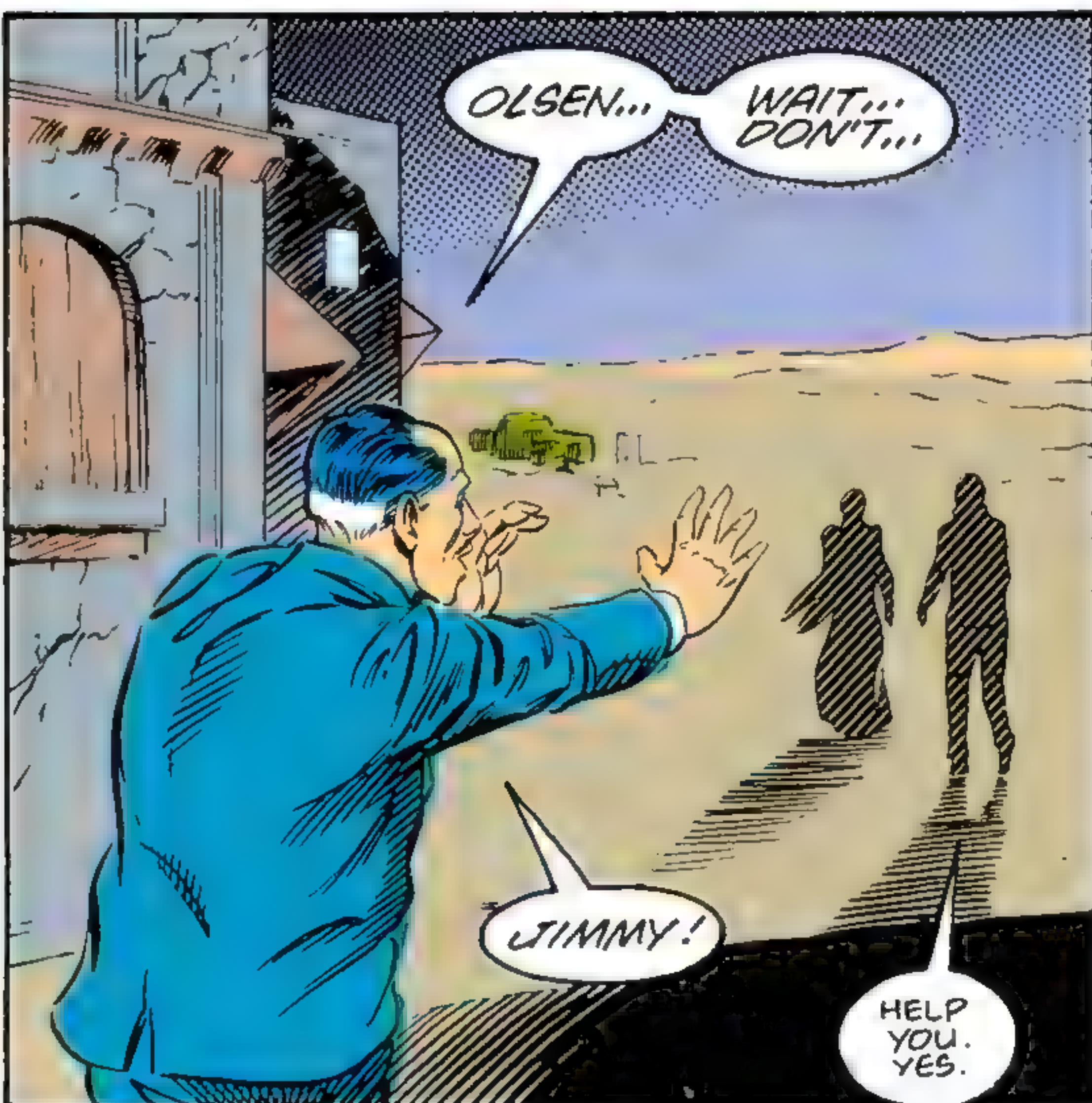
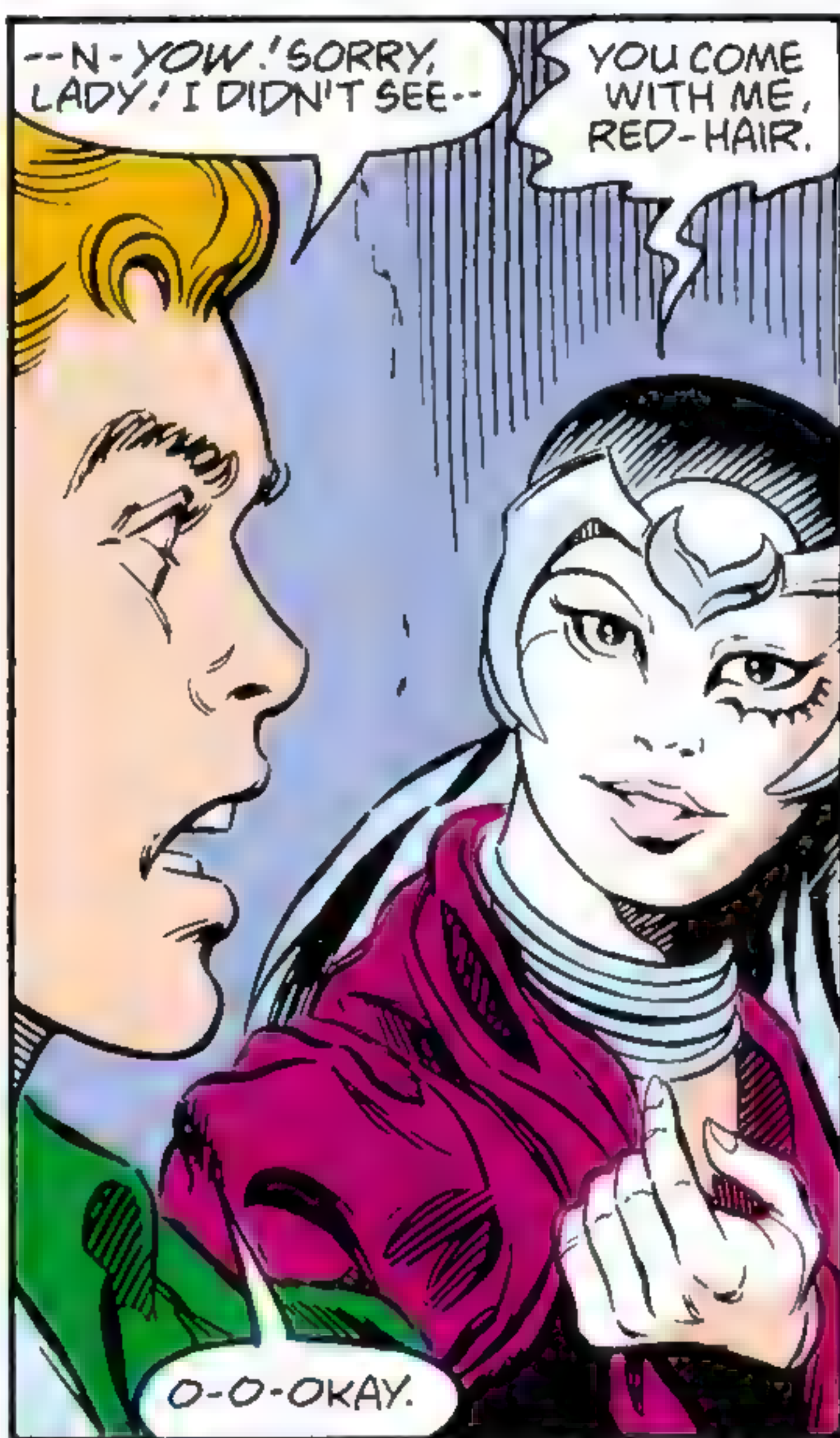
AND THIS MUST BE MR. OLSEN BEHIND YOU.

GREETINGS, YOUNG MAN--





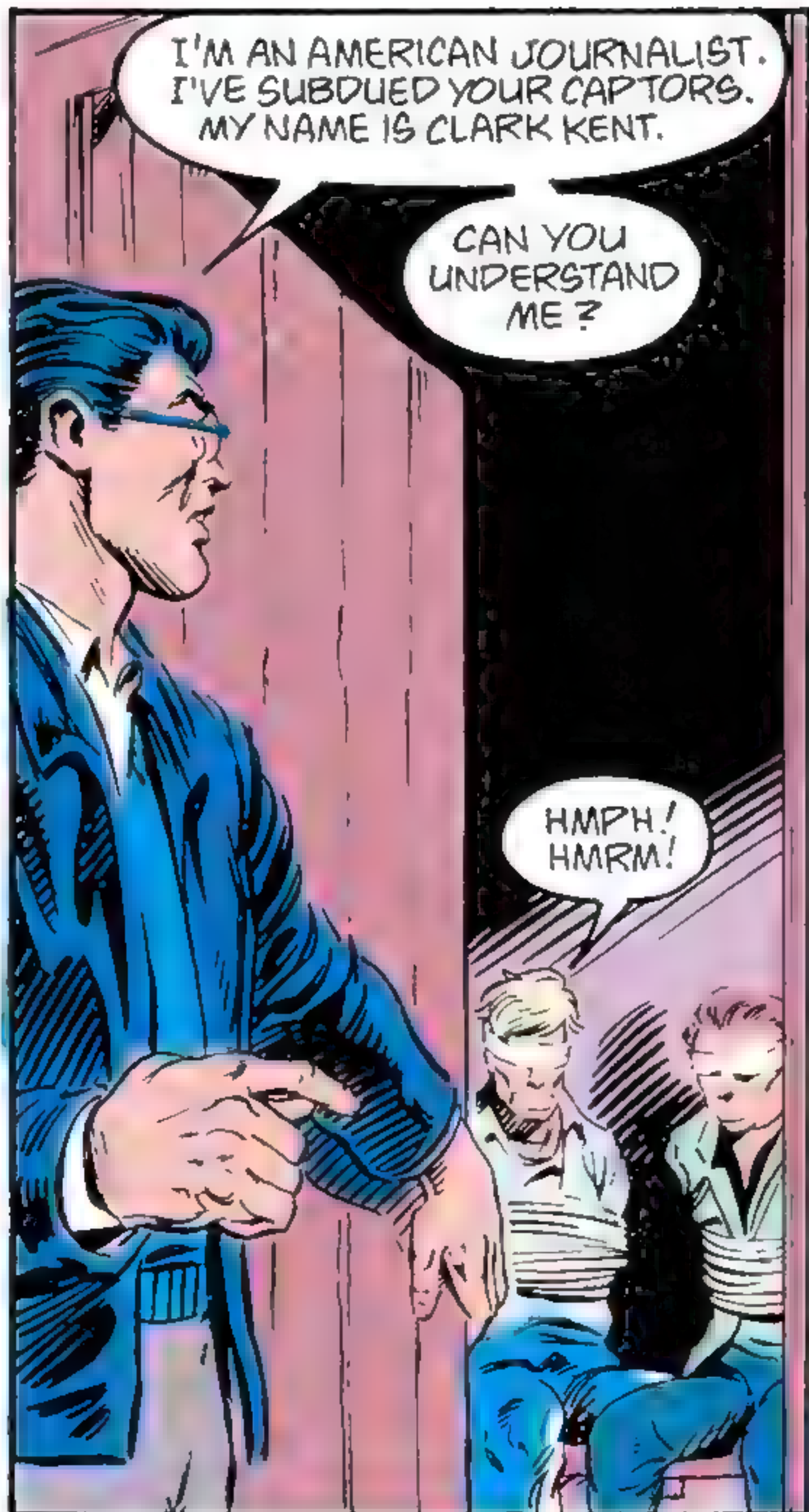






THIS OUGHT TO HOLD THESE GUYS FOR NOW. THEY CAN'T TIE SUPERMAN TO THIS, EITHER.

NOW...



I'M AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST. I'VE SUBDUED YOUR CAPTORS. MY NAME IS CLARK KENT.

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

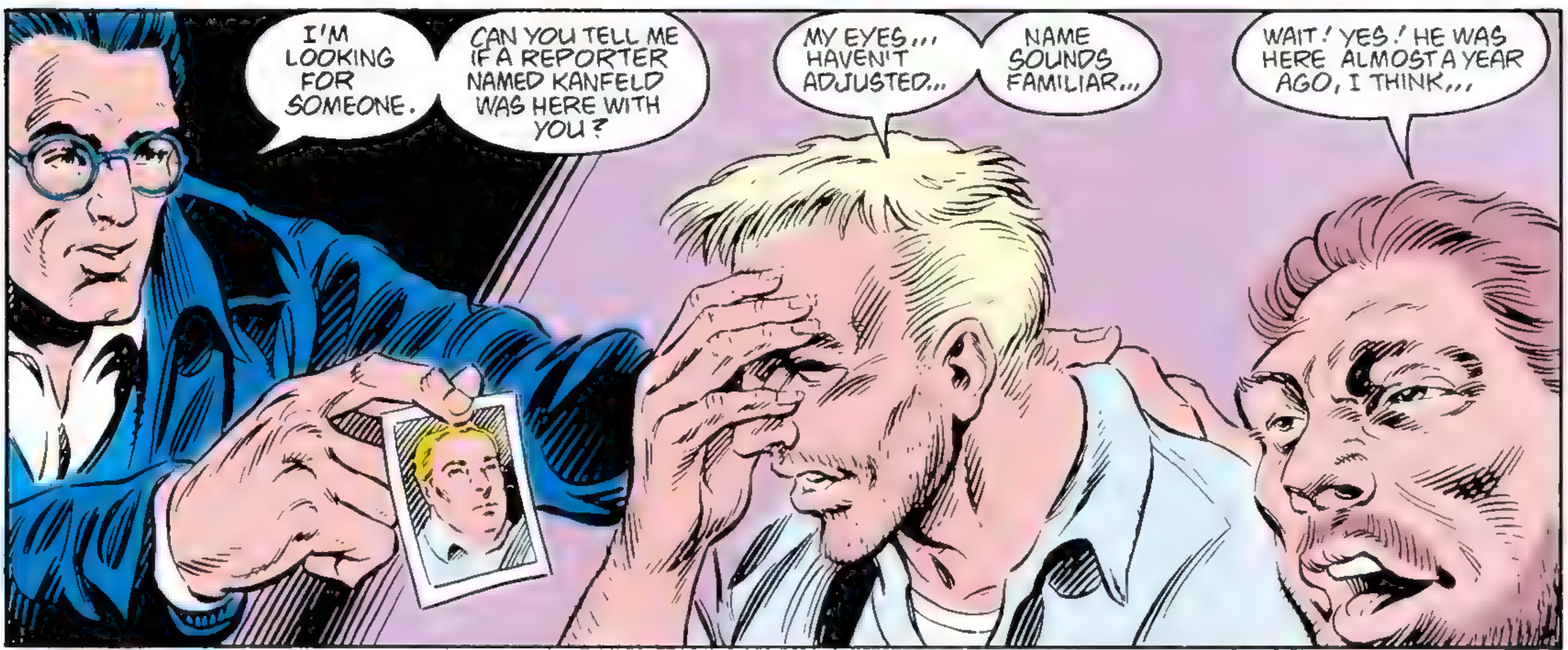
HMPH! HMRM!



I TAKE THAT AS A YES. ARE YOU ABLE TO SPEAK?

÷KOFF KOFF÷

÷GASP÷



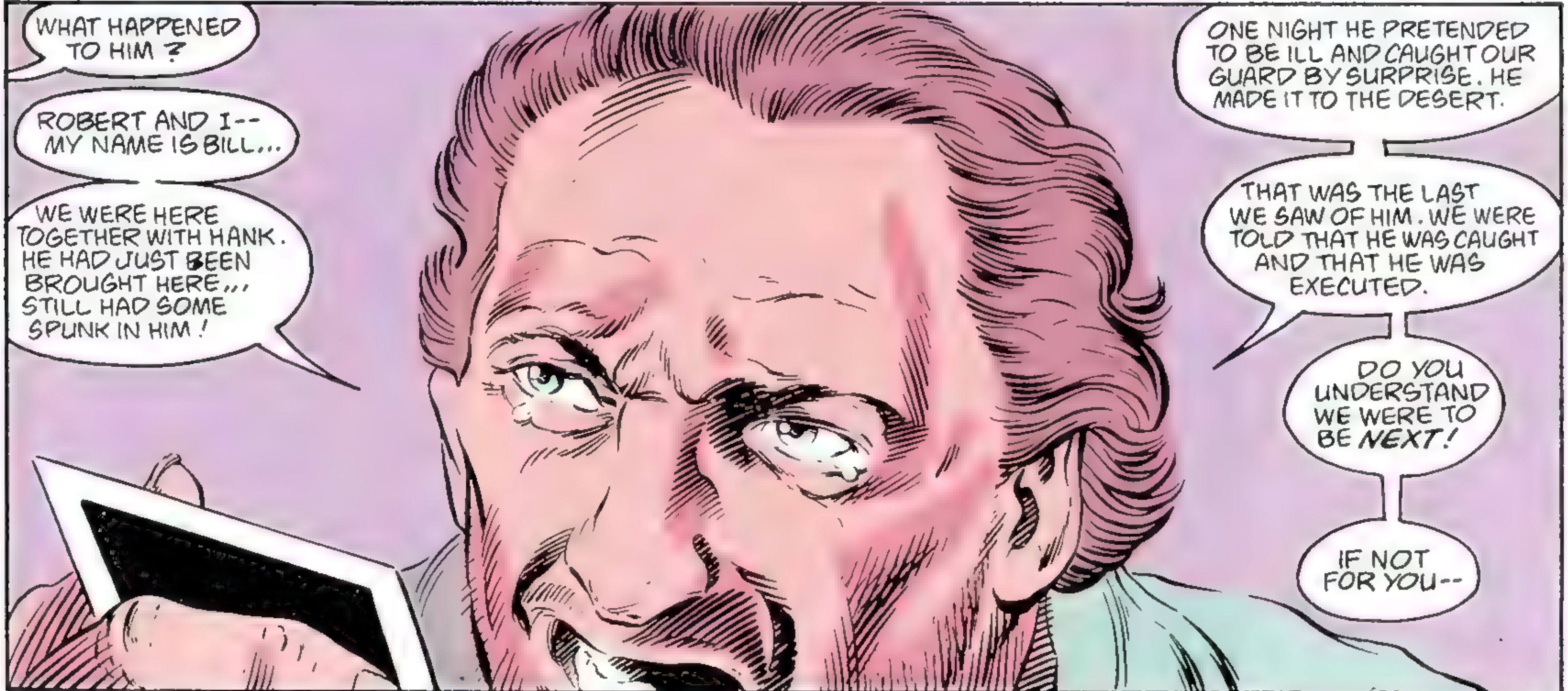
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.

CAN YOU TELL ME IF A REPORTER NAMED KANFELD WAS HERE WITH YOU?

MY EYES... HAVEN'T ADJUSTED...

NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR...

WAIT! YES! HE WAS HERE ALMOST A YEAR AGO, I THINK...



WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

ROBERT AND I-- MY NAME IS BILL...

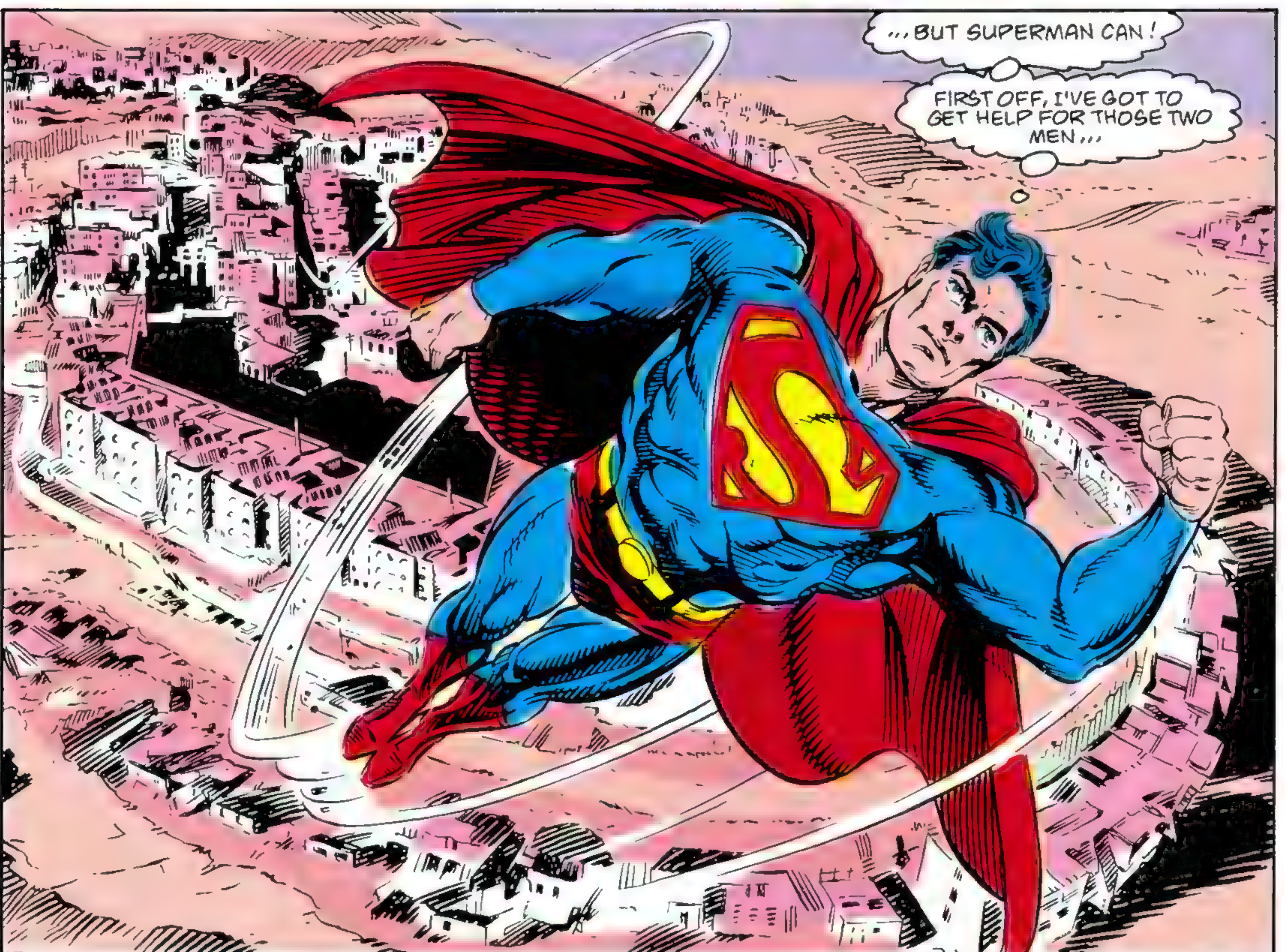
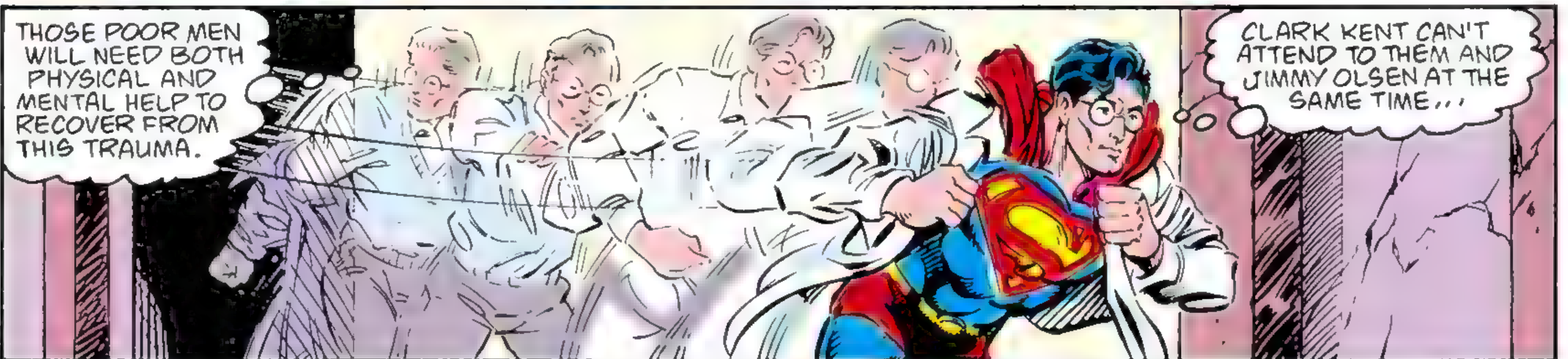
WE WERE HERE TOGETHER WITH HANK. HE HAD JUST BEEN BROUGHT HERE... STILL HAD SOME SPUNK IN HIM!

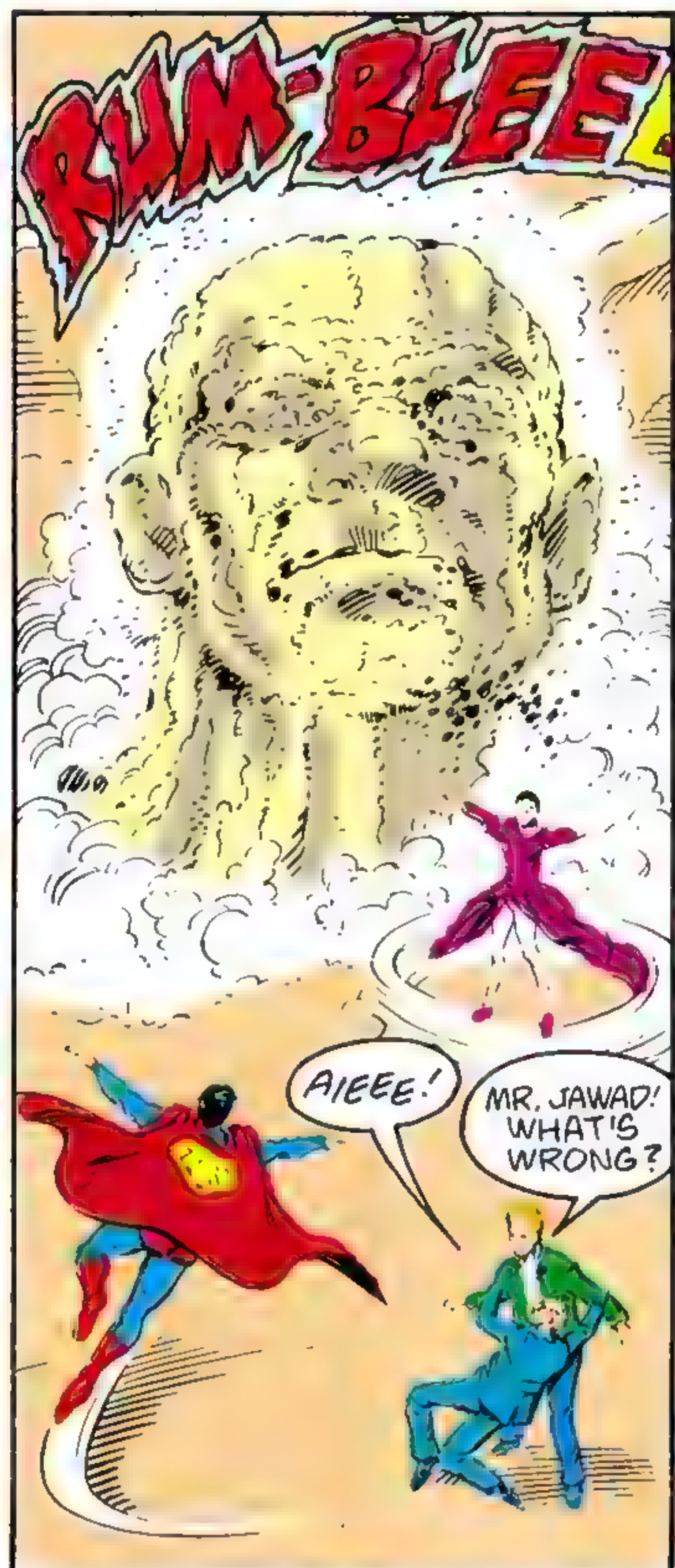
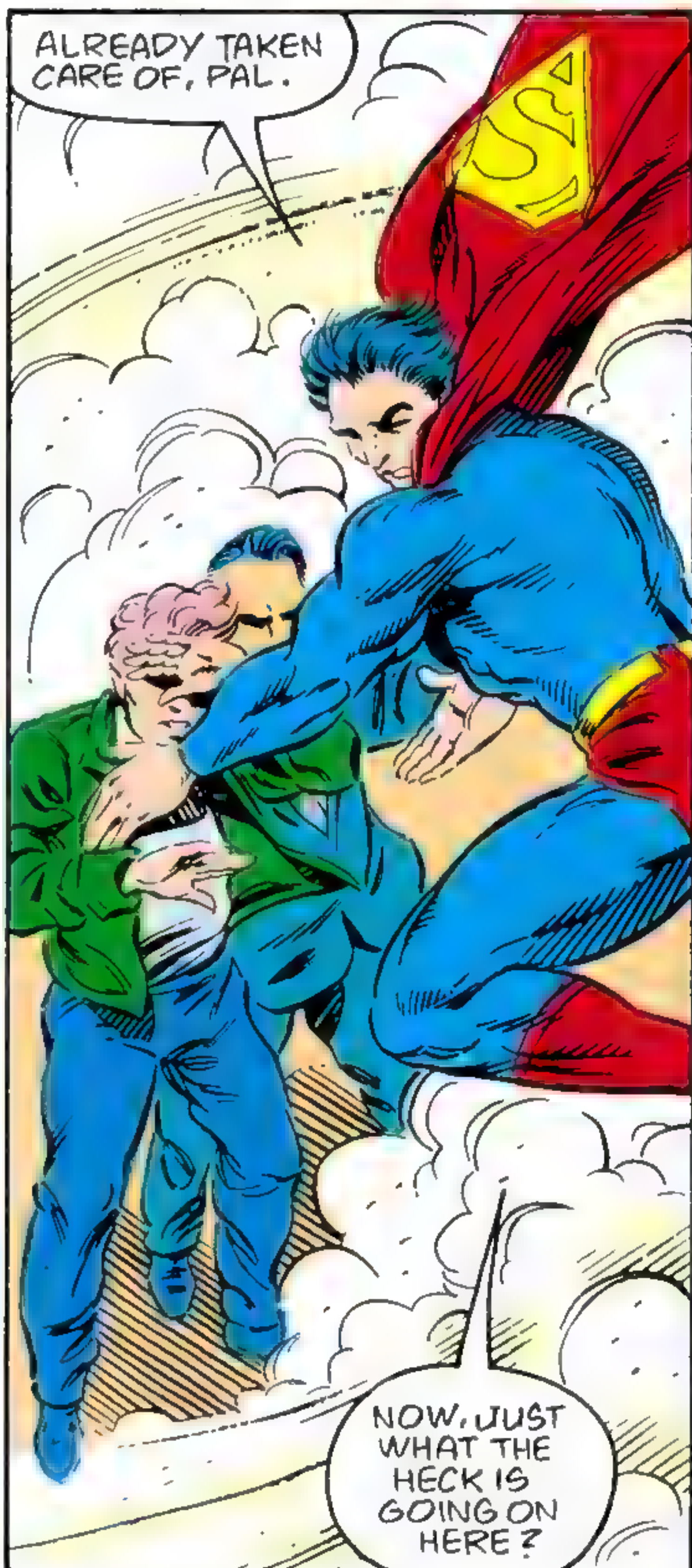
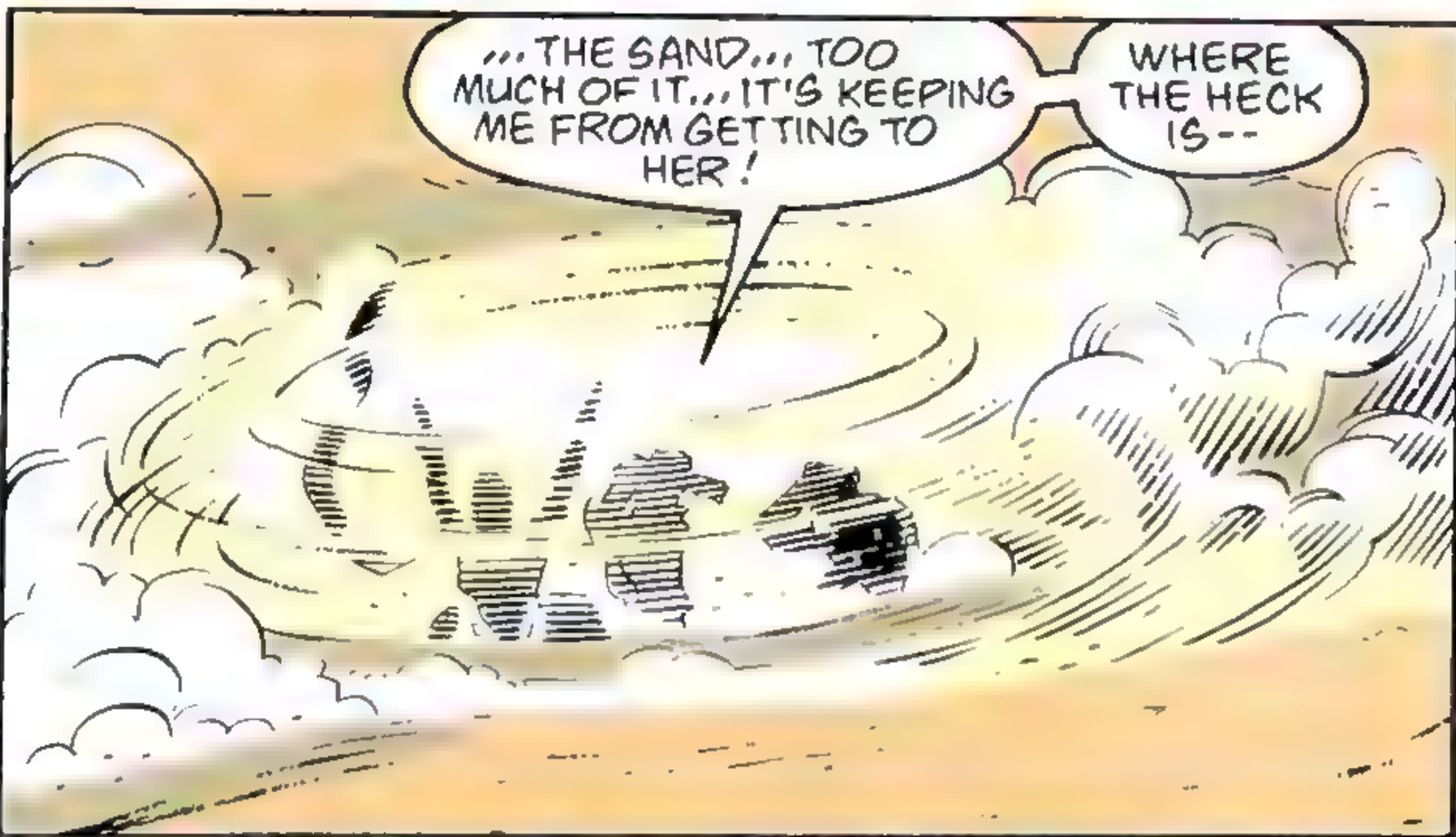
ONE NIGHT HE PRETENDED TO BE ILL AND CAUGHT OUR GUARD BY SURPRISE. HE MADE IT TO THE DESERT.

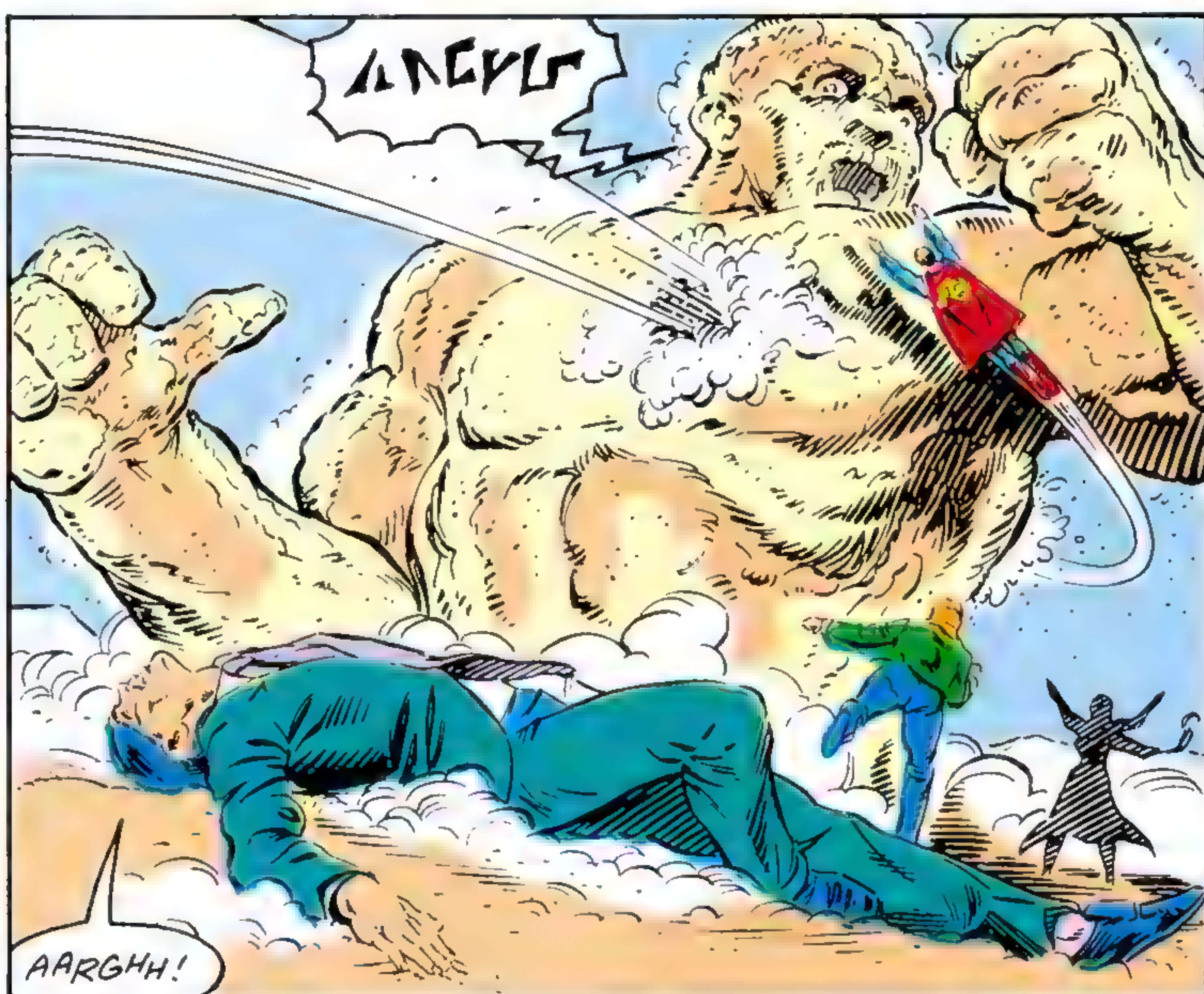
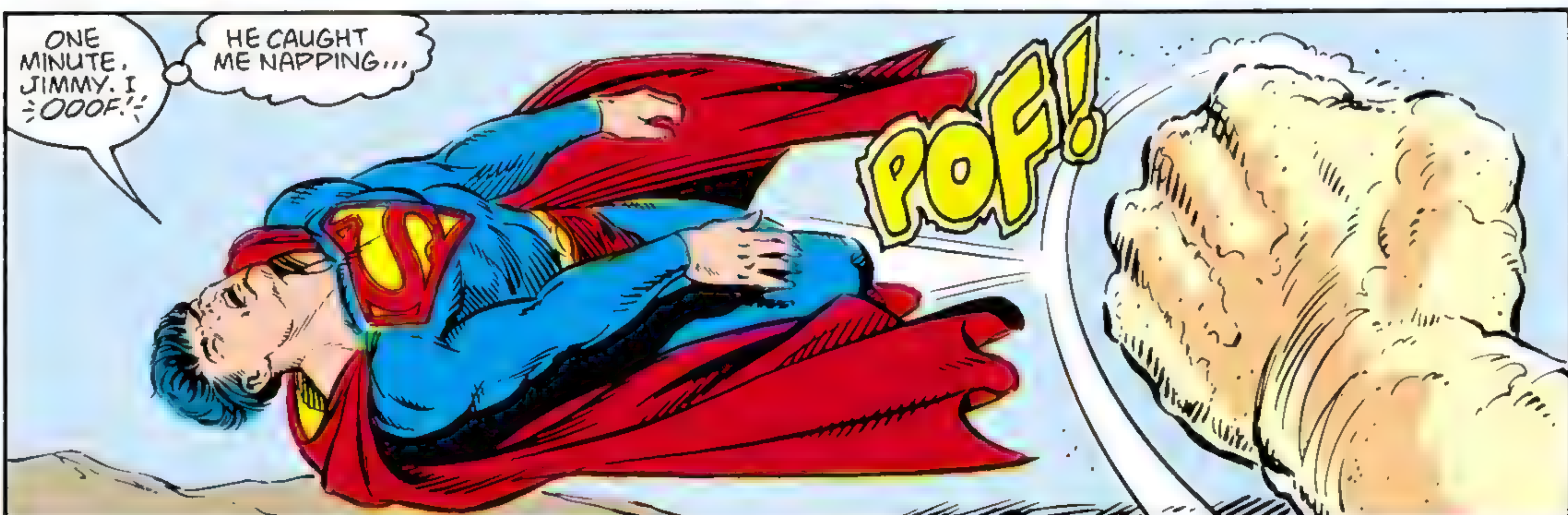
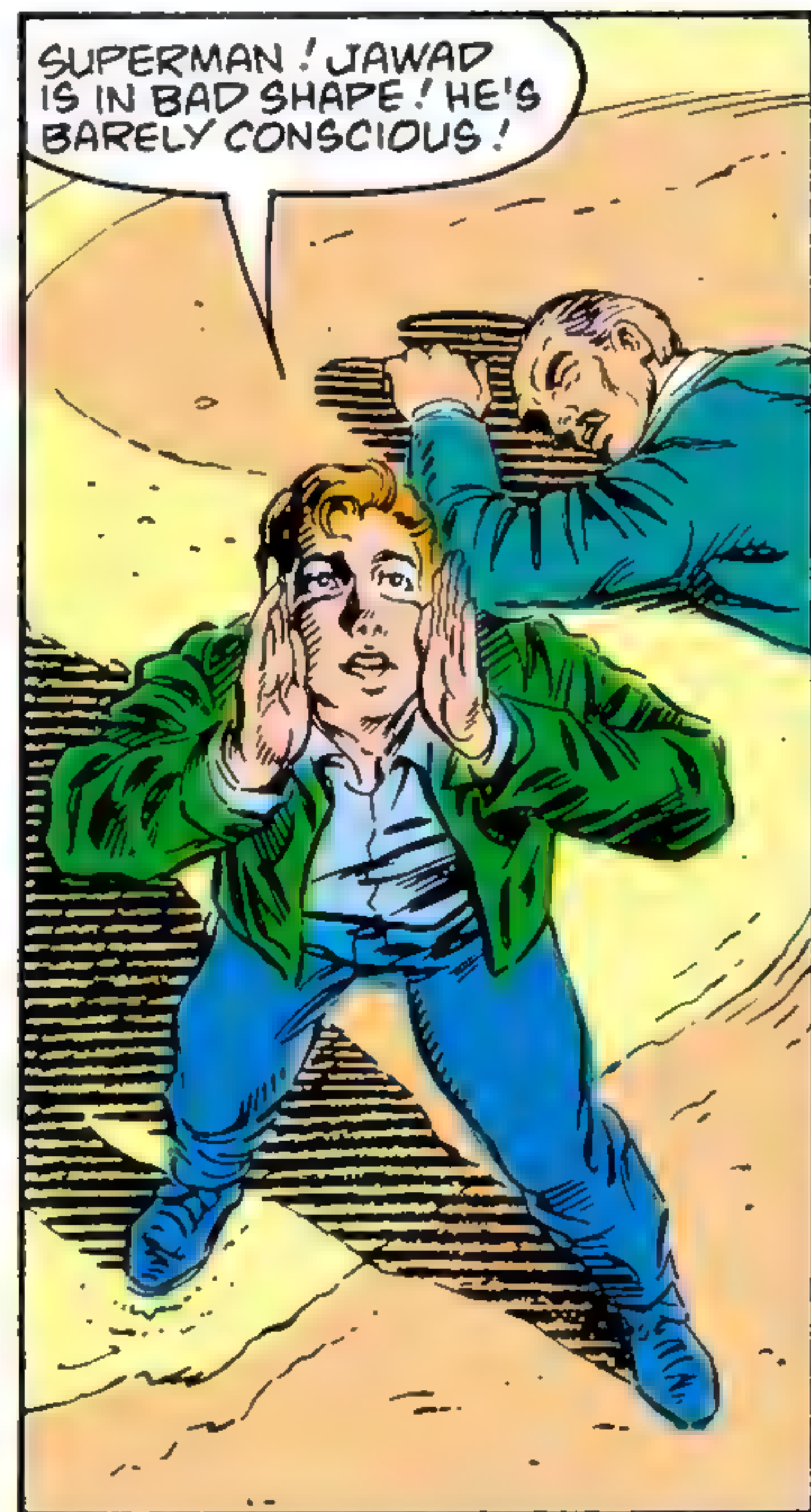
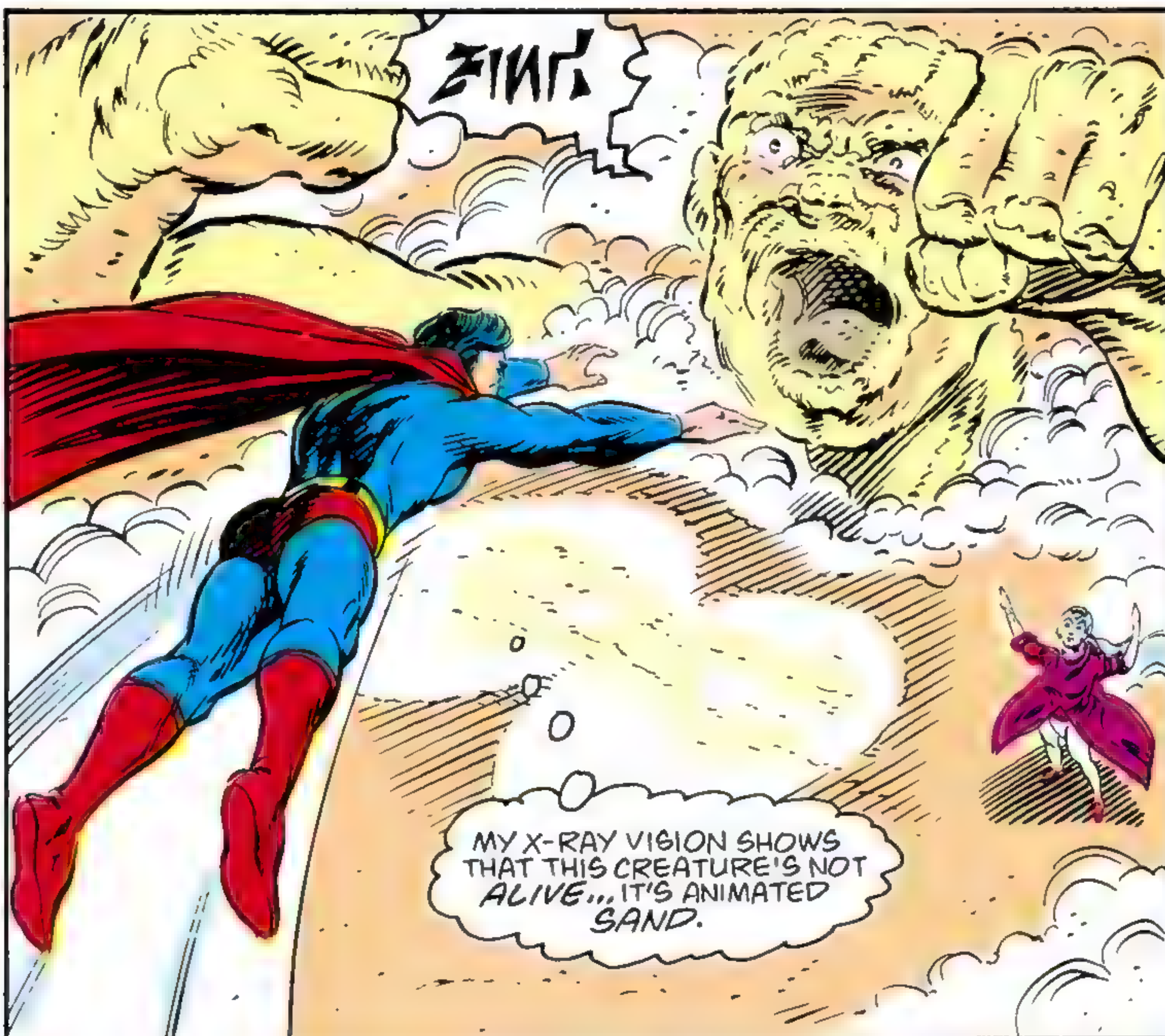
THAT WAS THE LAST WE SAW OF HIM. WE WERE TOLD THAT HE WAS CAUGHT AND THAT HE WAS EXECUTED.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WE WERE TO BE NEXT!

IF NOT FOR YOU--







WAIT--MY ACTION SEEMED TO HURT JAWAD EVEN MORE... COULD THE GIRL BE USING HIM TO SOMEHOW ANIMATE THIS MONSTER?

I'VE COME UP AGAINST WEIRDER EXPLANATIONS IN MY CAREER.

IF SO, HOW DO I STOP IT WITHOUT INJURING JAWAD?

WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL OF THIS?

IT IS YOU I WANT, NOT THEM...

YOUR HAIR... SO MUCH LIKE HIS... THE COLOR OF FLAMES!

YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE! WHY DO YOU WANT ME?

WHY ARE YOU HURTING MY FRIENDS?

HE... WANTS US TO KILL...

I... CANNOT... WILL NOT!

COME WITH ME... HELP ME...

SANDY'S CRUMBLING... LOSING HIS FORM... WAIT!

JIMMY! NO!

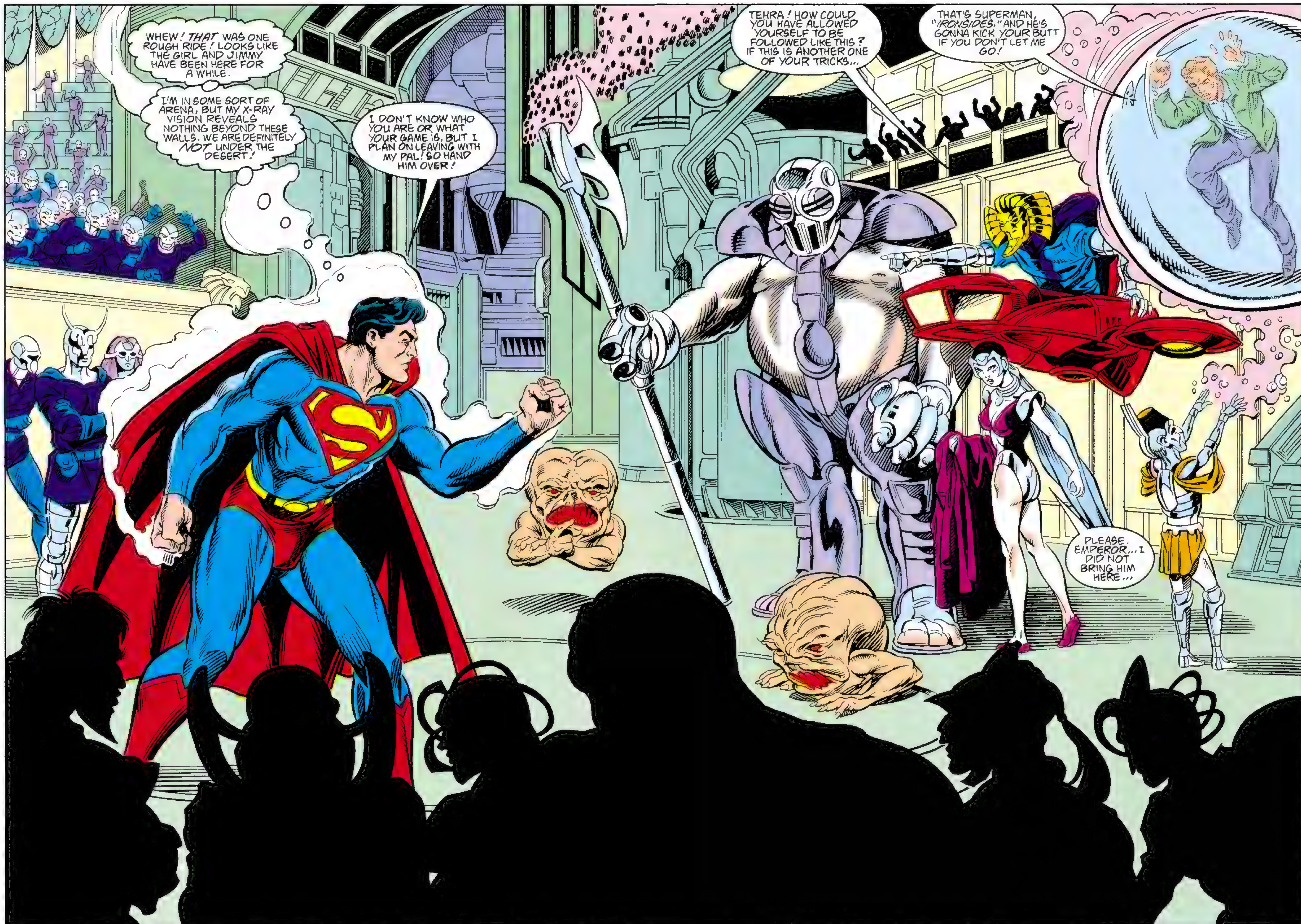
MY BROTHER AND I NEED YOU!

I'M WITH THEM... BUT THE VORTEX IS CLOSING! IF MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT, JAWAD WILL BE FINE WITH THIS GIRL GONE...

UHNNN...

"...WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR JIMMY AND ME, WHEREVER WE MIGHT BE GOING."

WHAT IN THE HEAVENS IS GOING ON... I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS...



WHEW! THAT WAS ONE ROUGH RIDE! LOOKS LIKE THE GIRL AND JIMMY HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE.

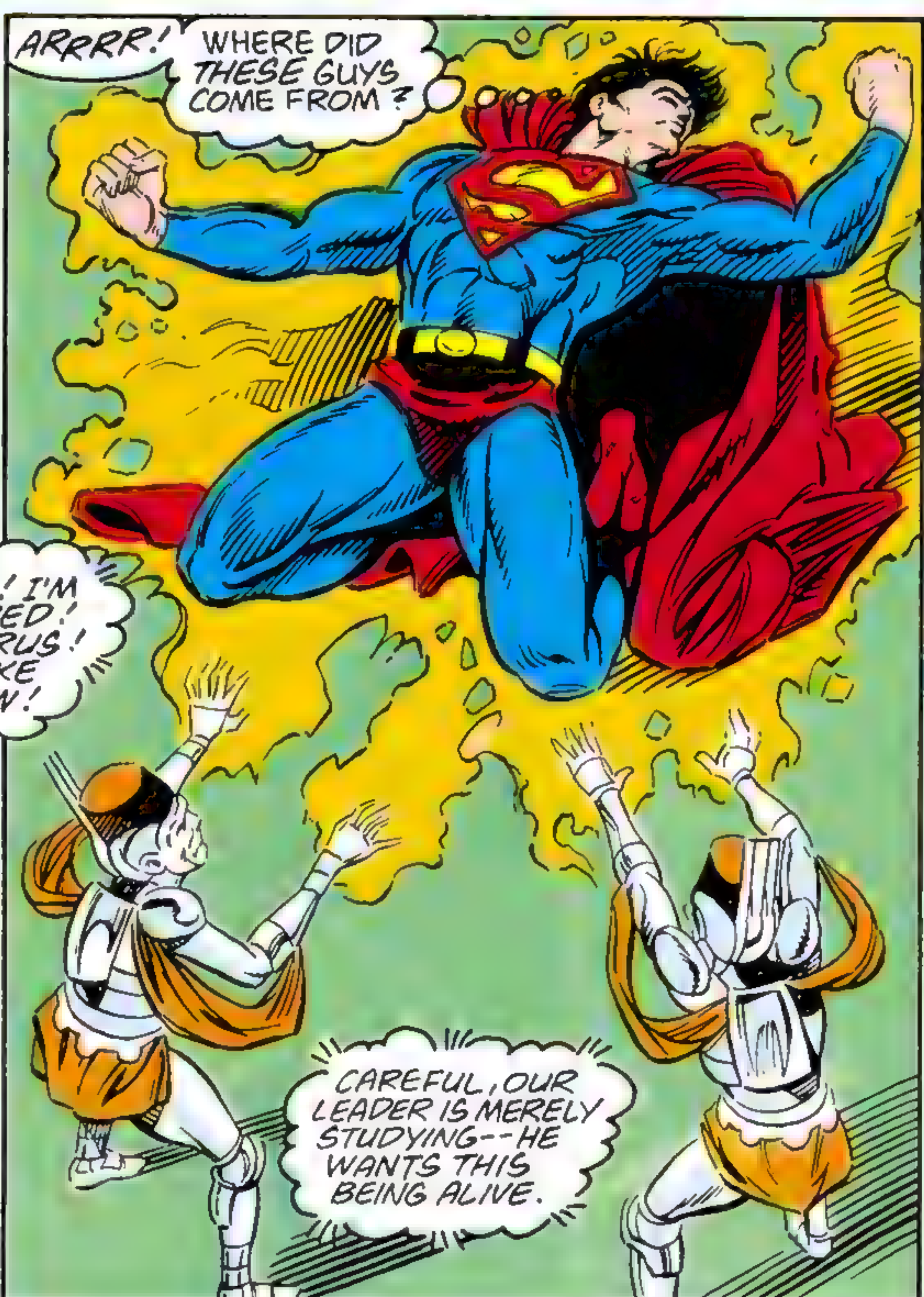
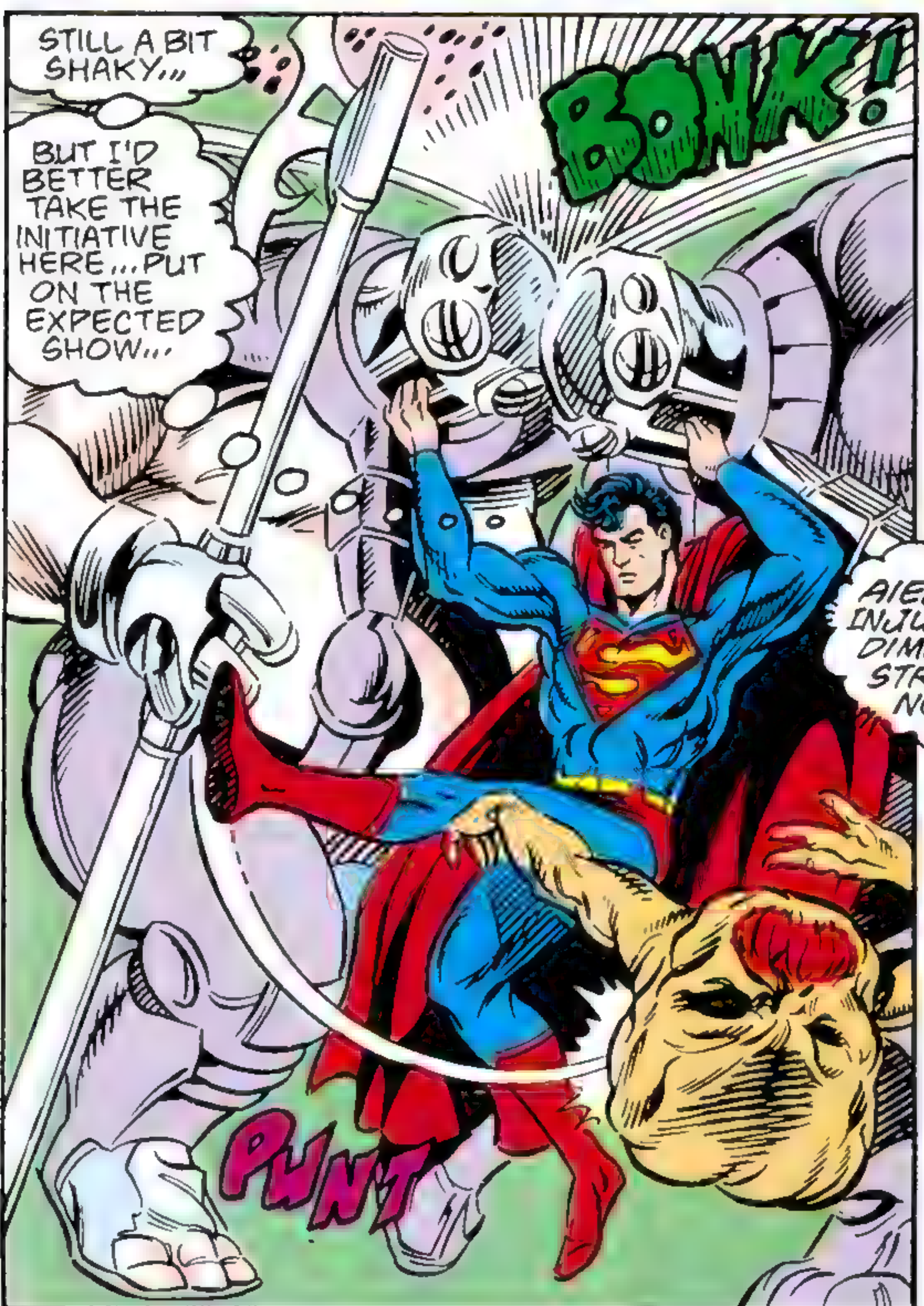
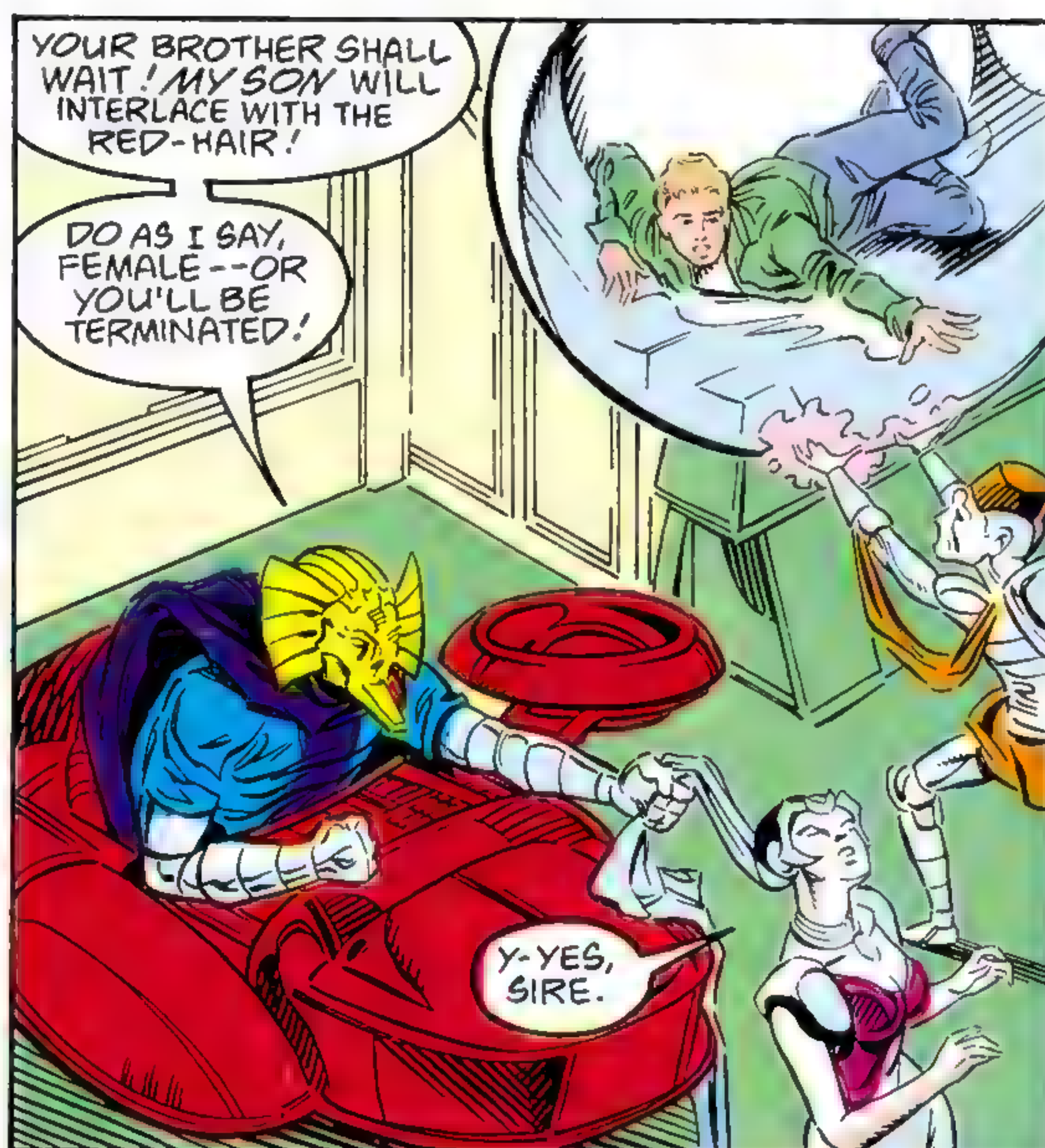
I'M IN SOME SORT OF ARENA, BUT MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS NOTHING BEYOND THESE WALLS. WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT UNDER THE DESERT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOUR GAME IS, BUT I PLAN ON LEAVING WITH MY PAL! SO HAND HIM OVER!

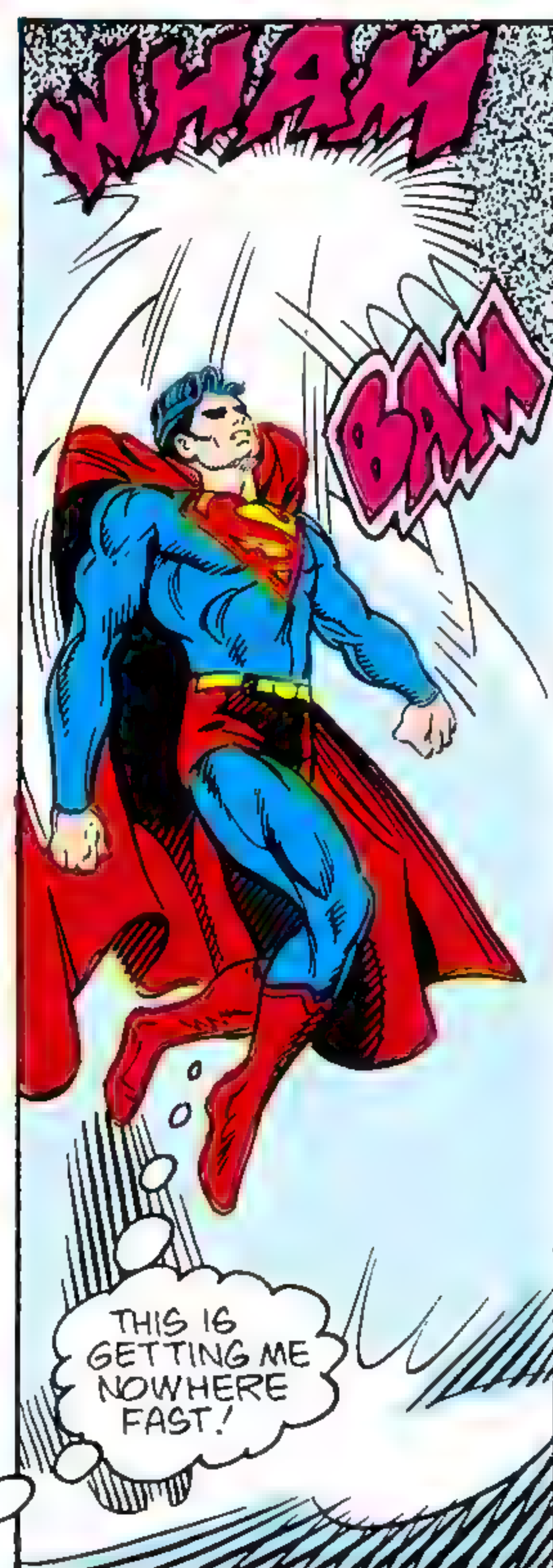
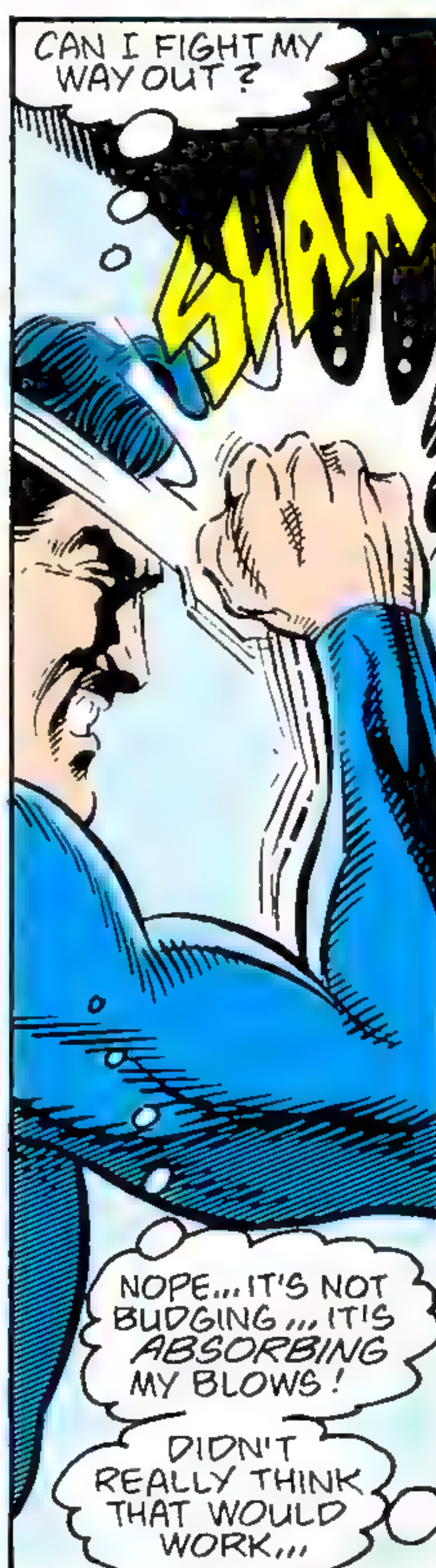
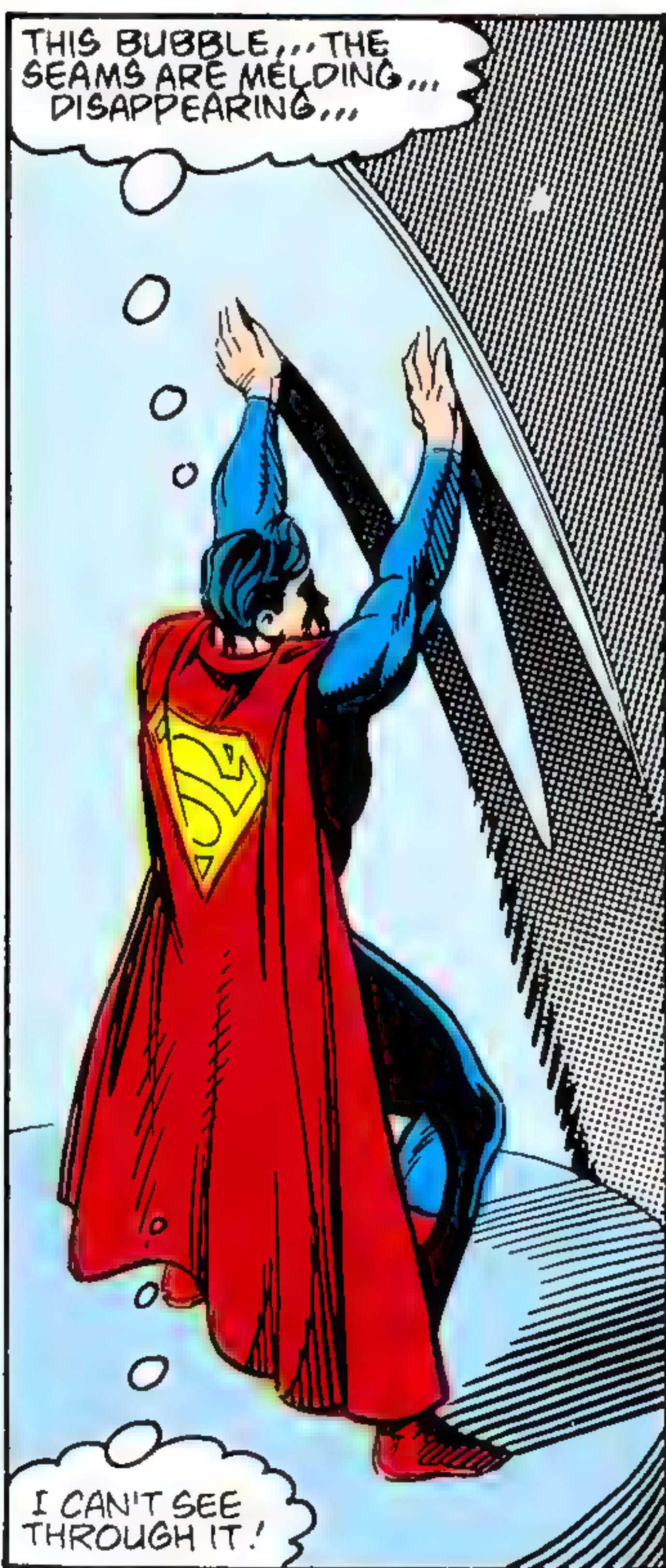
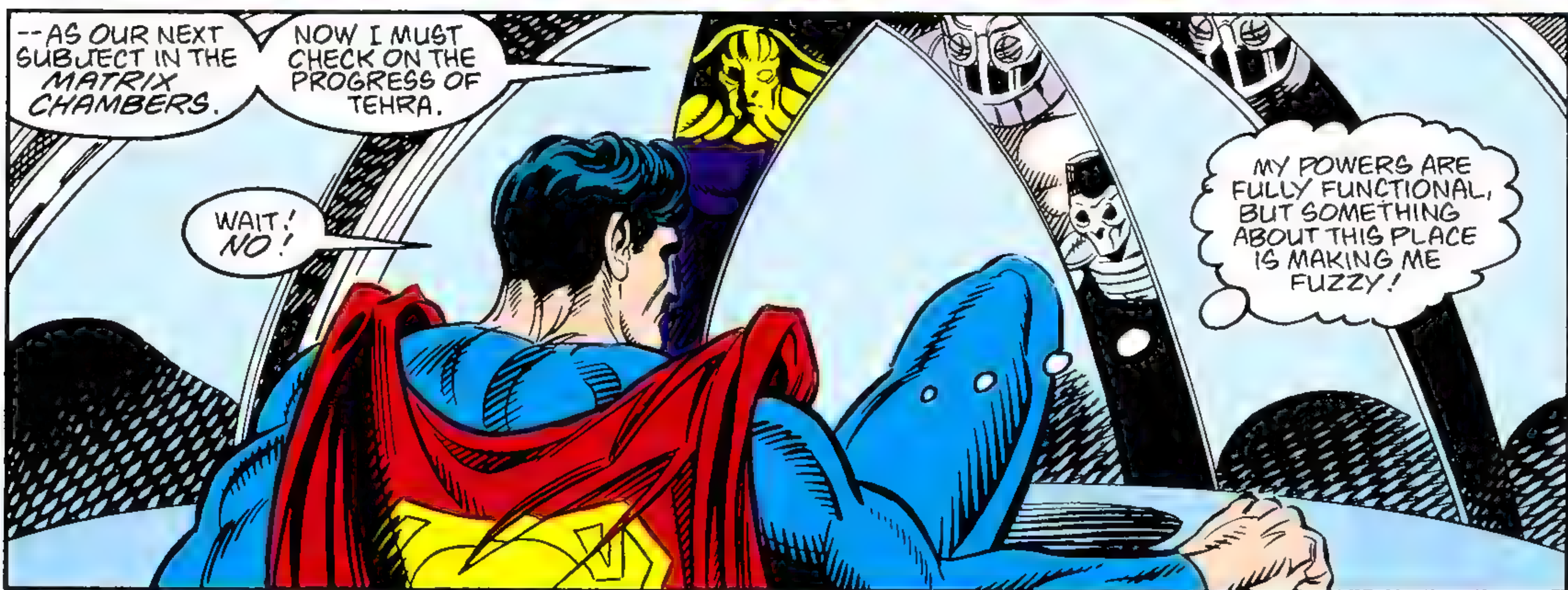
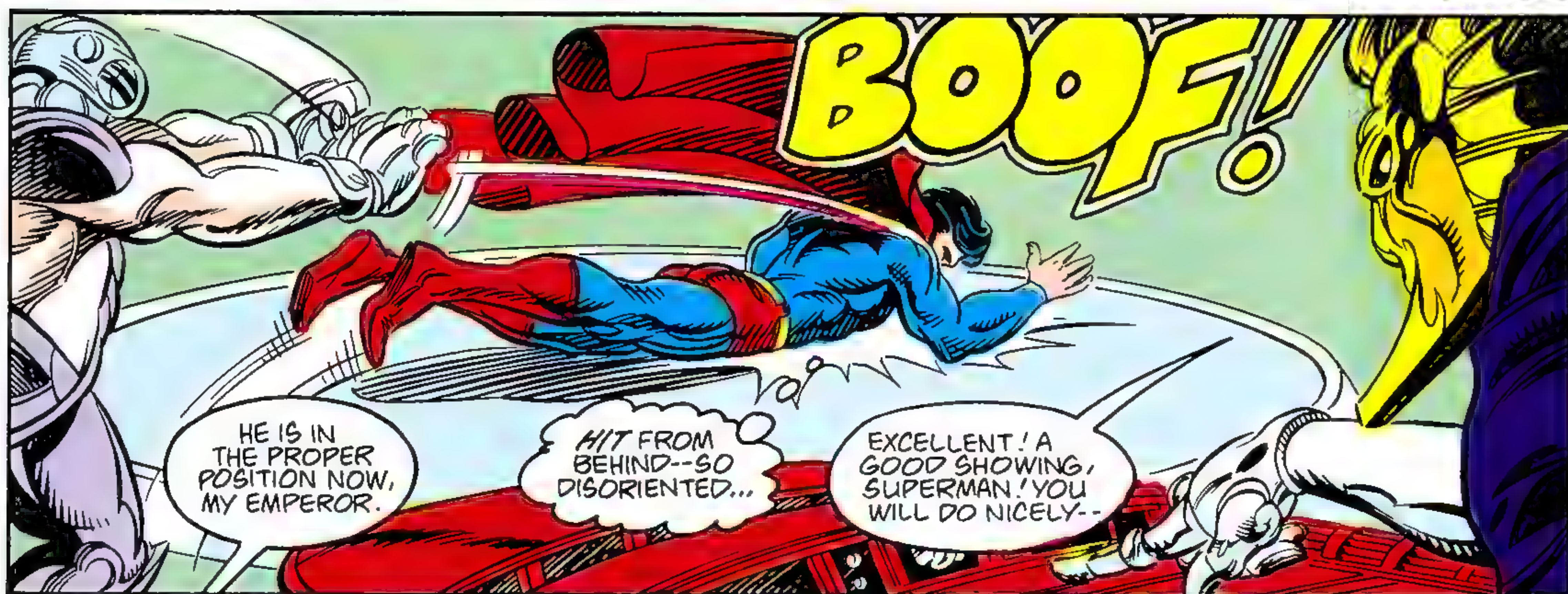
TEHRA! HOW COULD YOU HAVE ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE FOLLOWED LIKE THIS? IF THIS IS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR TRICKS...

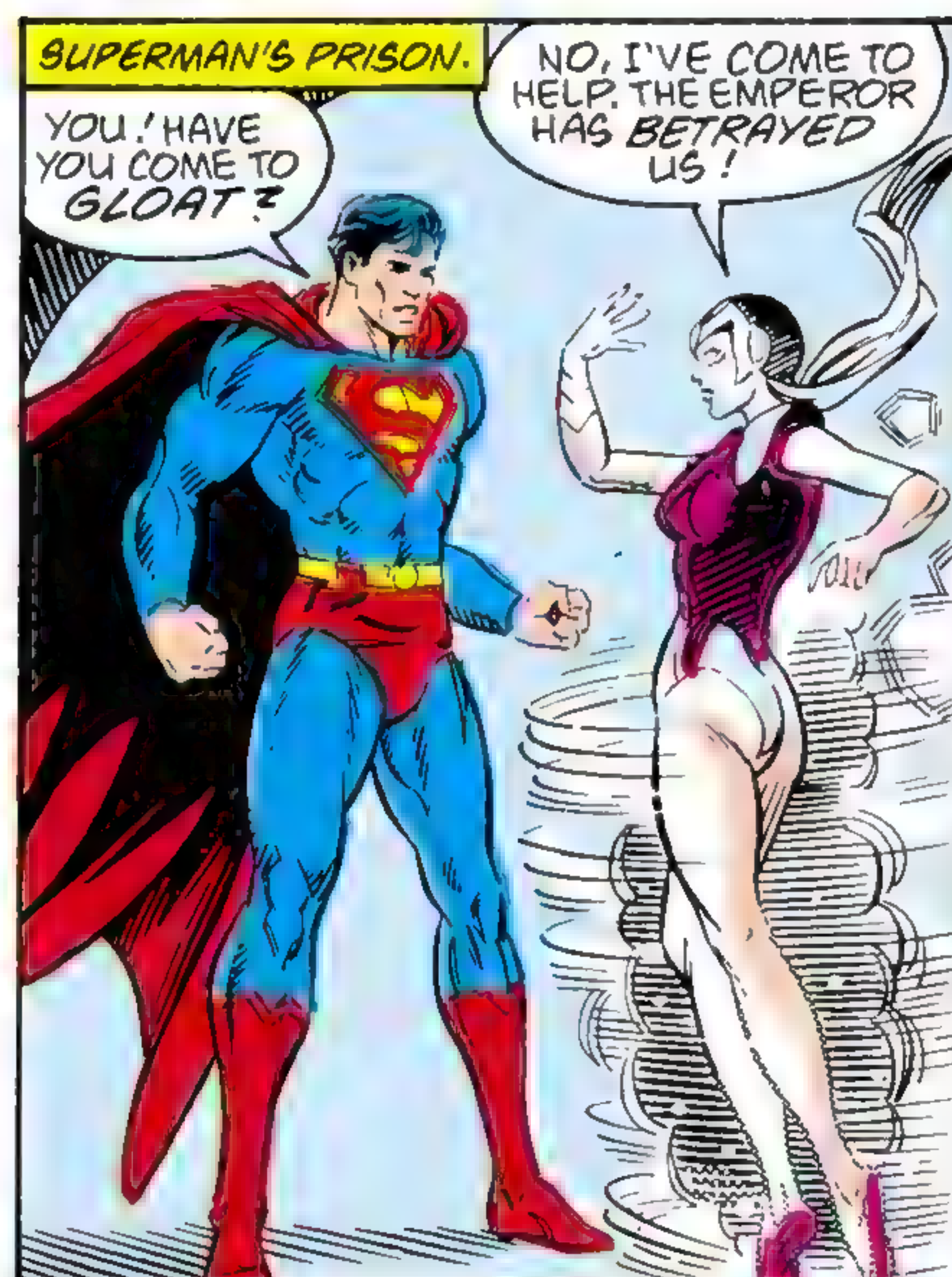
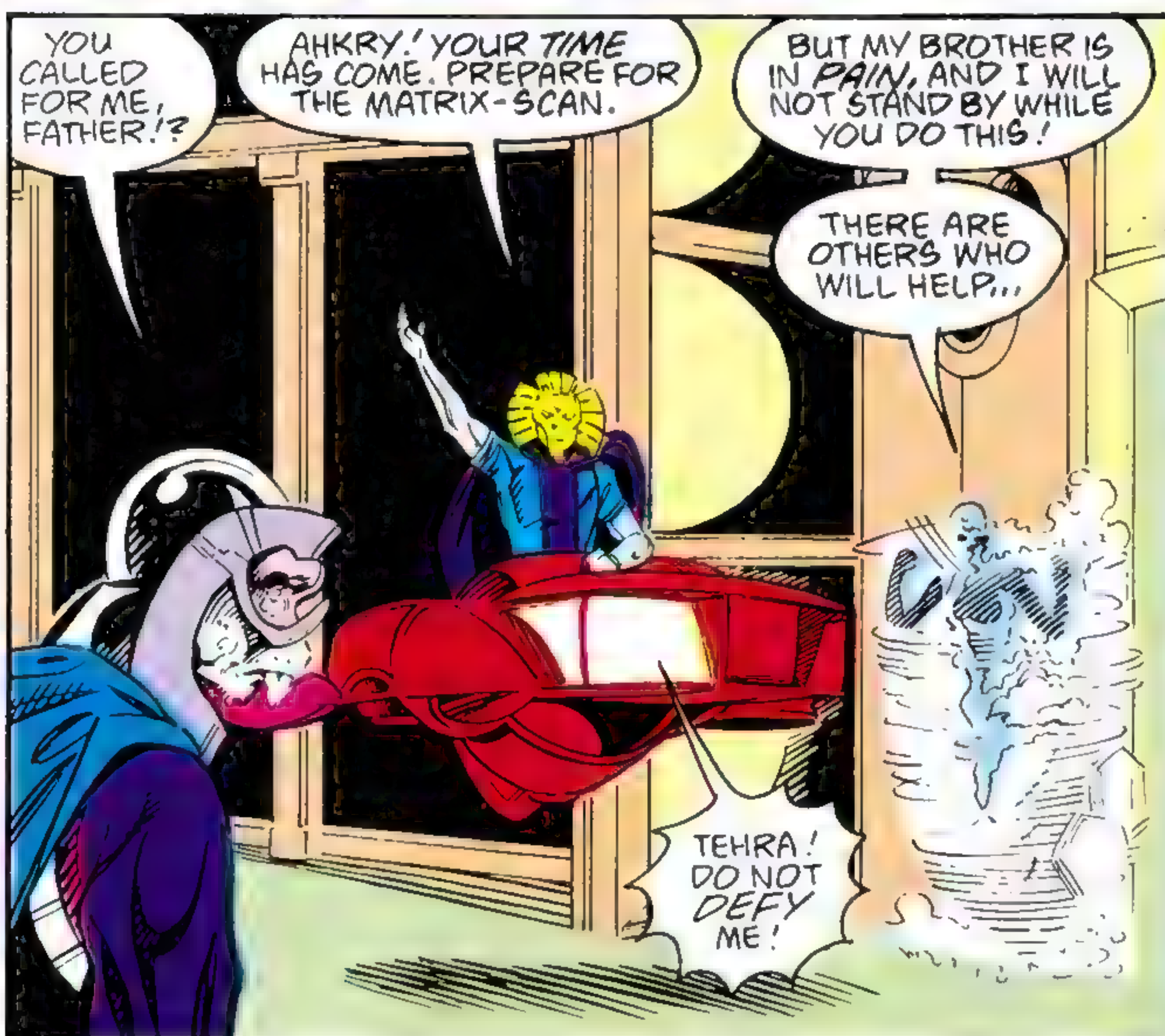
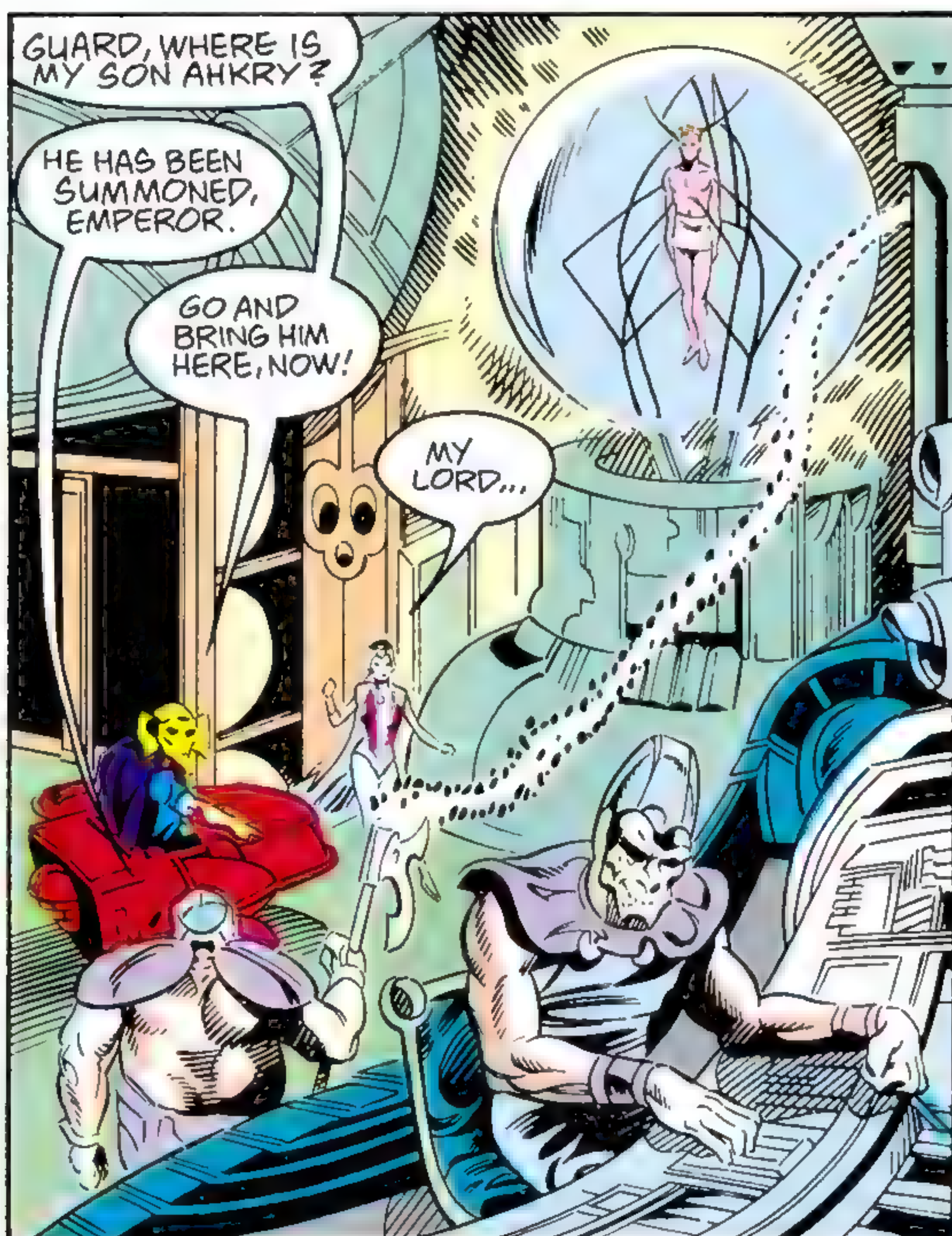
THAT'S SUPERMAN, "IRONSIDES," AND HE'S GONNA KICK YOUR BUTT IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO!

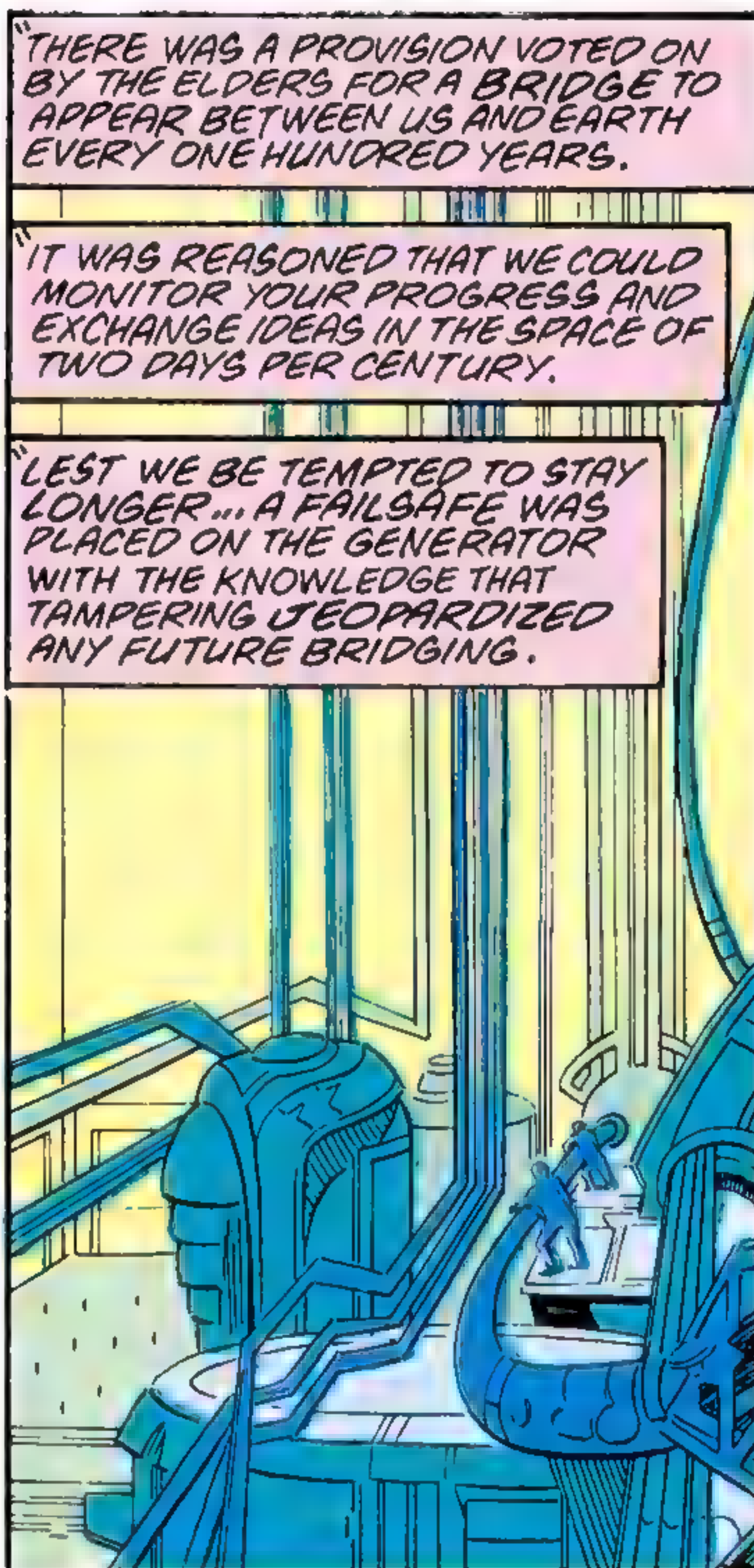
PLEASE, EMPEROR... I DID NOT BRING HIM HERE...





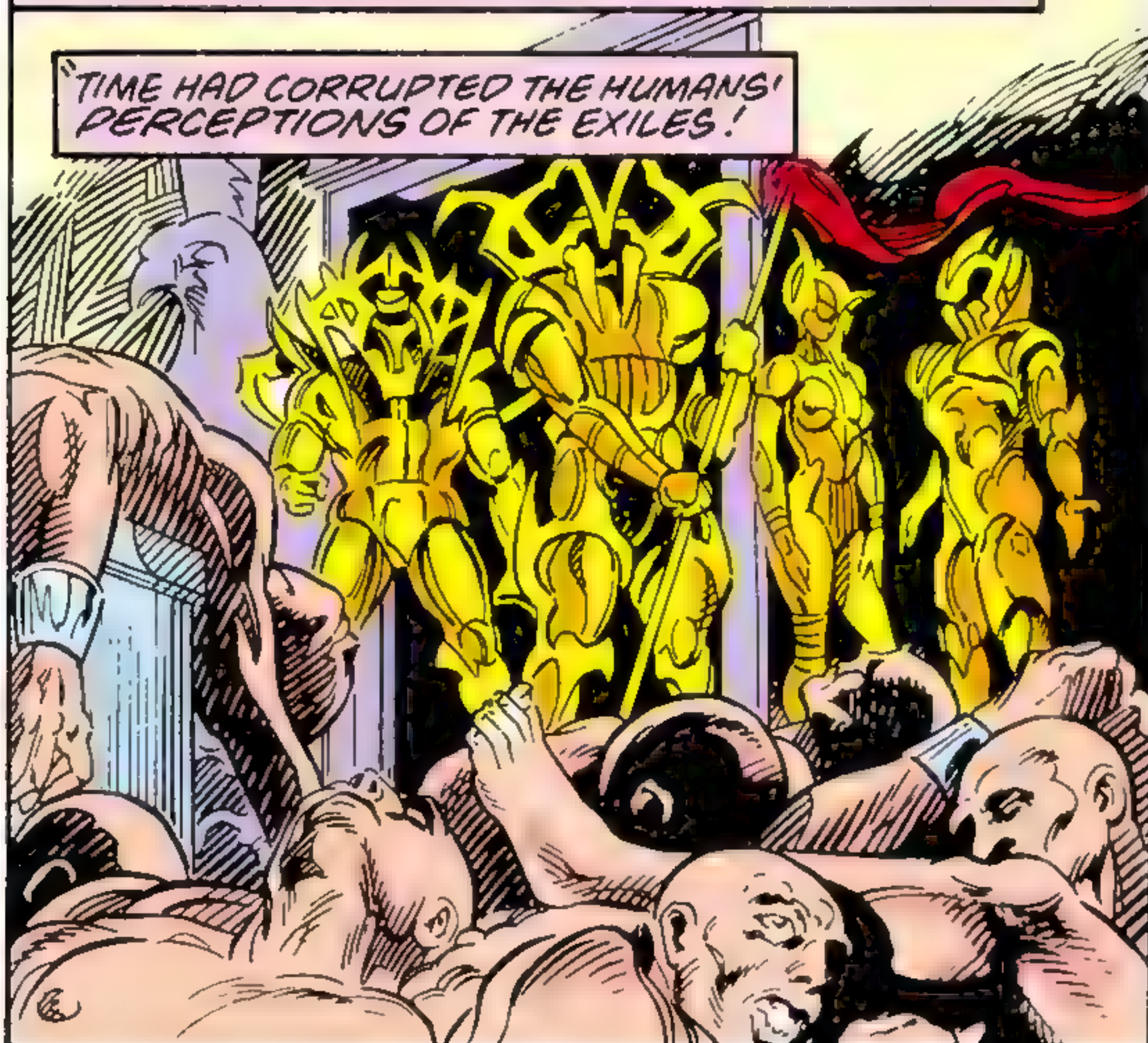






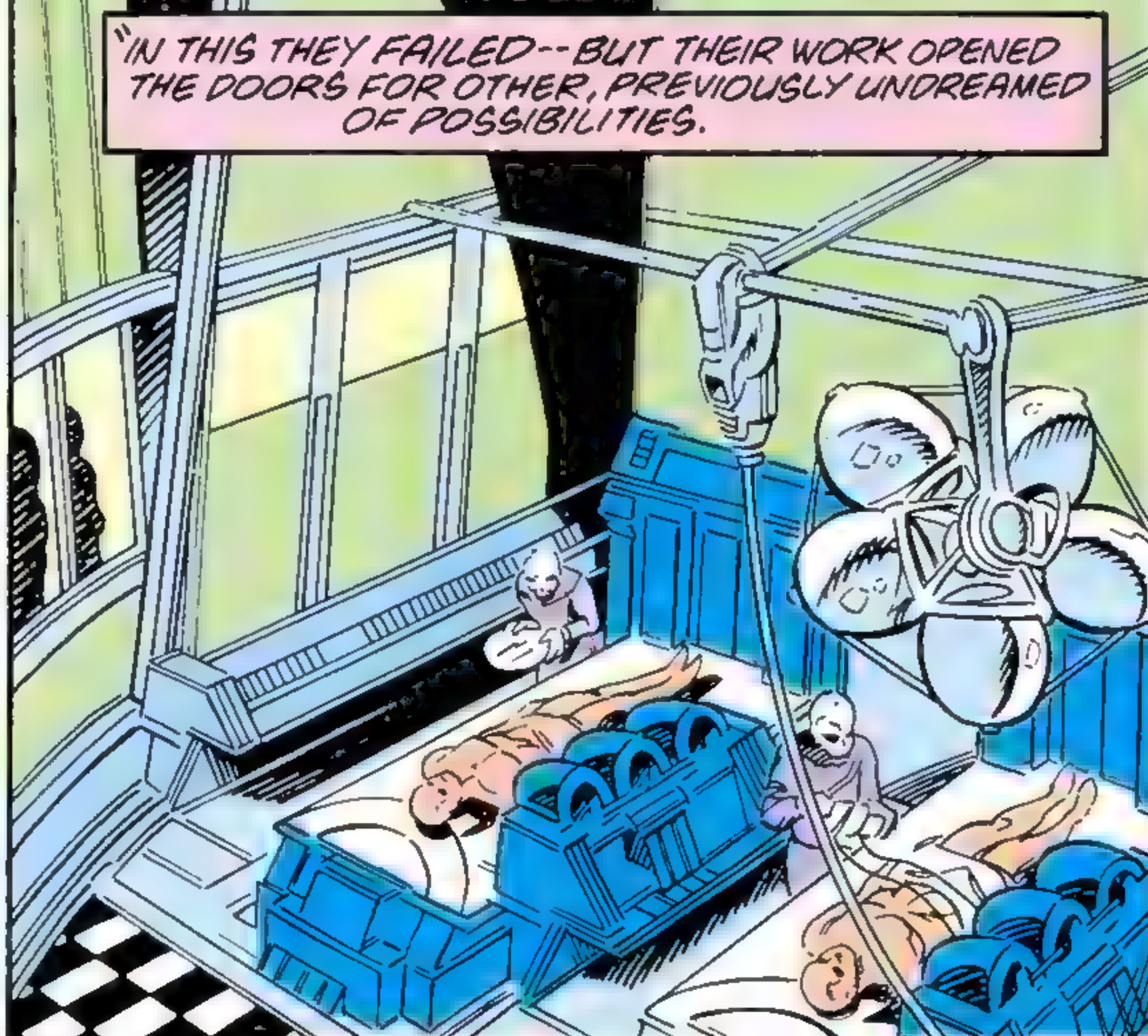
"WHEN OUR COUNCIL OF FOUR EMERGED FOR THAT EXCHANGE, THEY WERE WELCOMED BY DOZENS OF DEAD HUMANS... SACRIFICES, THEY CORRECTLY THEORIZED."

"TIME HAD CORRUPTED THE HUMANS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE EXILES!"



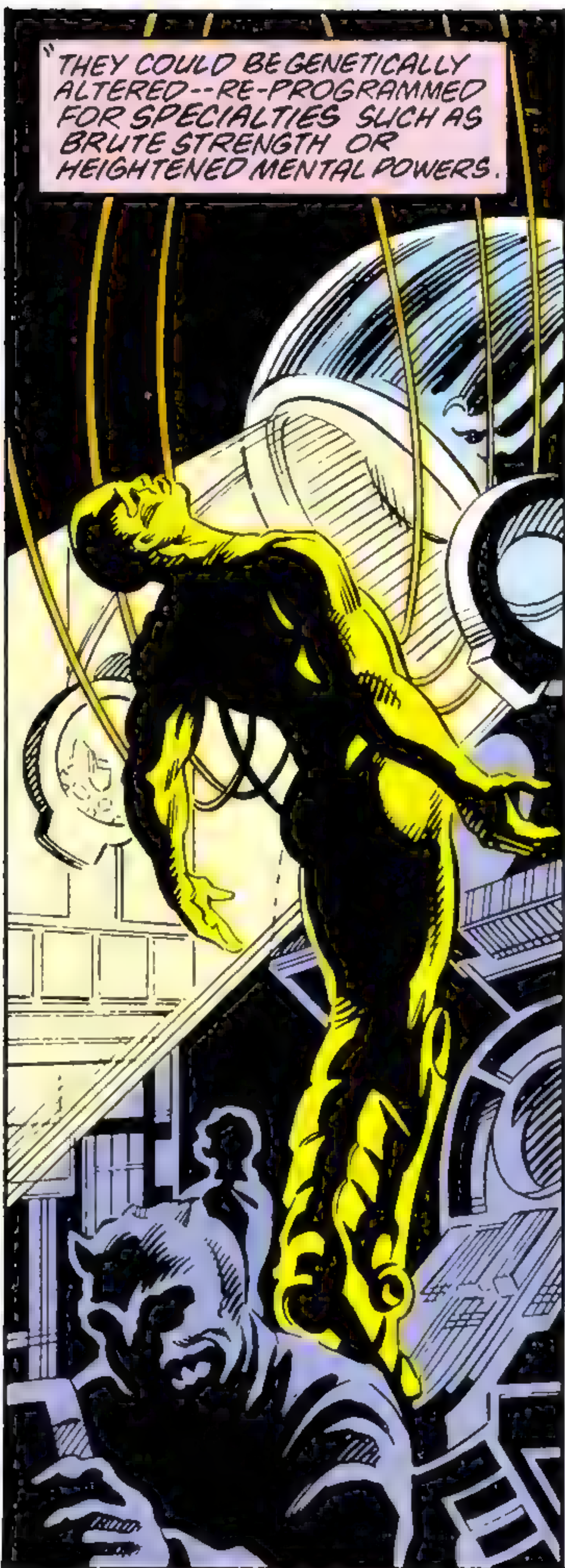
"APPALLED AT SUCH DISREGARD FOR LIFE, OUR SCIENTISTS ATTEMPTED TO RESURRECT THE DEAD, USING ALL MEANS KNOWN TO THEM!"

"IN THIS THEY FAILED-- BUT THEIR WORK OPENED THE DOORS FOR OTHER, PREVIOUSLY UNDREAMED OF POSSIBILITIES."



"WE DISCOVERED A WAY TO USE THESE HUMAN HUSKS--ESSENTIALLY IMBUING THEM WITH THE LIFEFORCE OF AN EXILE--CREATING A HYBRID OF THE TWO!"

"THEY COULD BE GENETICALLY ALTERED--RE-PROGRAMMED FOR SPECIALTIES SUCH AS BRUTE STRENGTH OR HEIGHTENED MENTAL POWERS."



"WE HAD CORRUPTED OUR SOCIETY BY CREATING A CASTE SYSTEM. THE NEW EXILES BECAME THE ELITE. ALL ELSE WERE TO BE CONSIDERED INFERIOR."

"RIOTS BROKE OUT AS THE HUNDRED-YEAR CYCLE APPROACHED AGAIN--RIOTS CONCERNING WHO WOULD CLAIM THE VALUED EARTHERS' BODIES FOR MATRIXING."

"EVERY CYCLE BROUGHT TREMENDOUS SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS, NEW LEADERSHIP WITH NEW PROMISES..."



"... AND RENEWED VIOLENCE."

"EVENTUALLY IT WAS RECKONED THAT ONE HUNDRED YEARS WAS TOO LONG TO WAIT FOR THE DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE, AND ON THE EVE OF THE LATEST CYCLE, A NEW SAVIOR EMERGED FROM THE RANKS OF THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY."

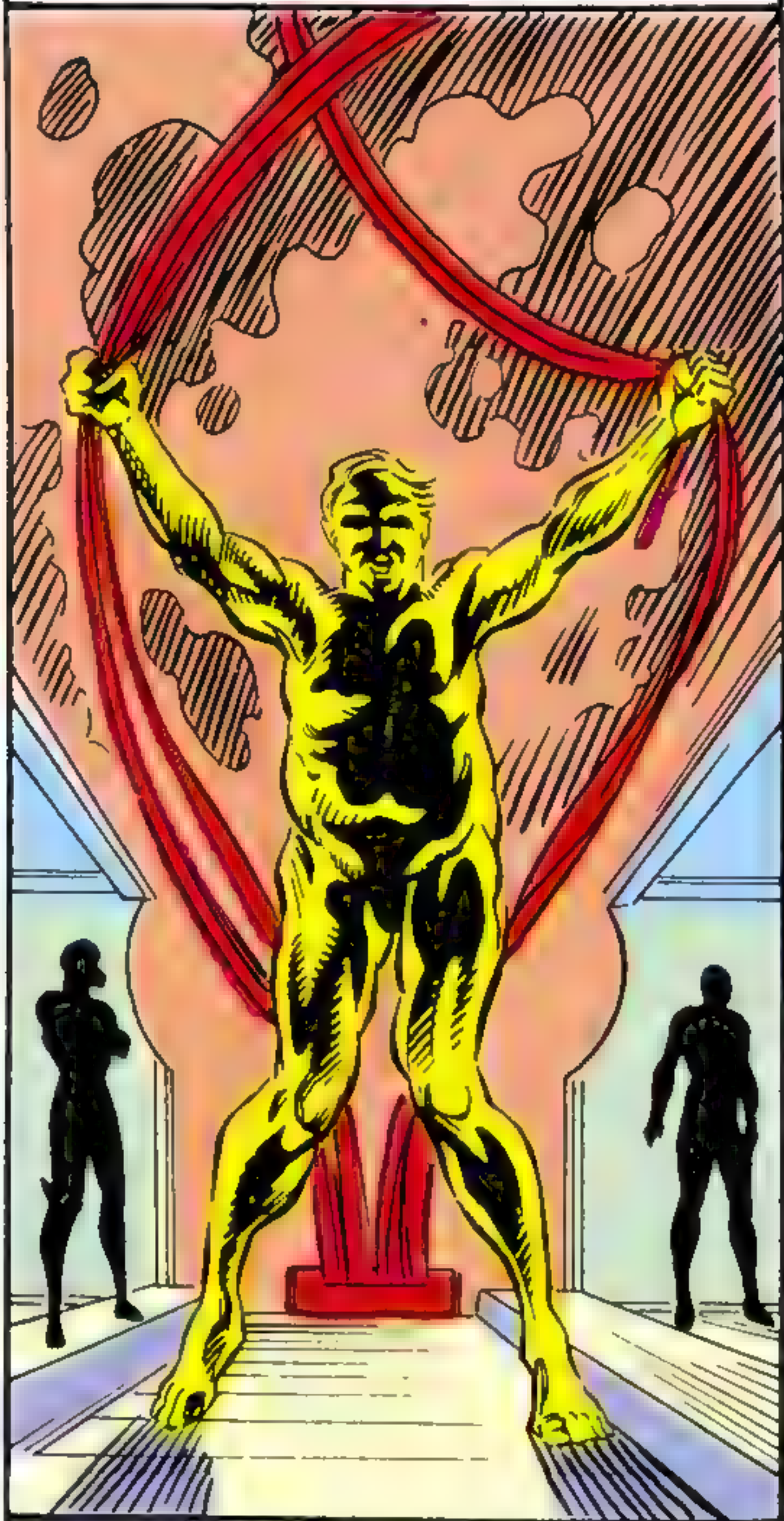
"THE ONE WHO IS NOW KNOWN AS OUR EMPEROR HAD A PLAN TO CIRCUMVENT THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL LINK WITHOUT DISTURBING THE ELDER'S FAILSAFE MECHANISM."

"FOR THAT THEY MADE HIM EMPEROR."



"HIS REAL REWARD WAS TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE ELITE. AND HE CHOSE A RED-HAIRED MAN FROM THE SACRIFICES LEFT AT THE ALTAR. HE SAID IT WAS A SIGN OF APPROVAL FROM THE LONG DEAD ELDER THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMED EMPEROR."

"TRUSTING NO ONE, HE PERFORMED THE INTERLACING HIMSELF AND DECLARED THAT HE WAS NOW ABOVE THE ELITE."



"THERE ARE RUMORS, THOUGH, AMONGST THOSE WHO SEEK TO DEPOSE HIM THAT HE GAINED NO ADVANTAGE AT ALL-- AND SOME EVEN WHISPER THAT HIS LEGS ARE USELESS, HIDDEN BY HIS THRONE."

HIS CONTROL IS NOT ABSOLUTE. I BELIEVE HE CAN BE OVERTHROWN WITH YOUR HELP. IN RETURN, I GUARANTEE THE SAFETY AND PASSAGE OF YOUR COMPANION AND YOURSELF.

HIS RULE MUST END. IT IS TIME FOR THE EXILES TO END THEIR PETTY RIVALRIES.



COULD THIS EMPEROR BE KANFELD? THE TIMEFRAME SUGGESTS IT IS POSSIBLE. COULD HE HAVE ESCAPED HIS CAPTORS, ONLY TO RUN INTO THE HANDS OF ZEALOTS WHO SAW HIM MERELY AS AN ANONYMOUS SACRIFICE?

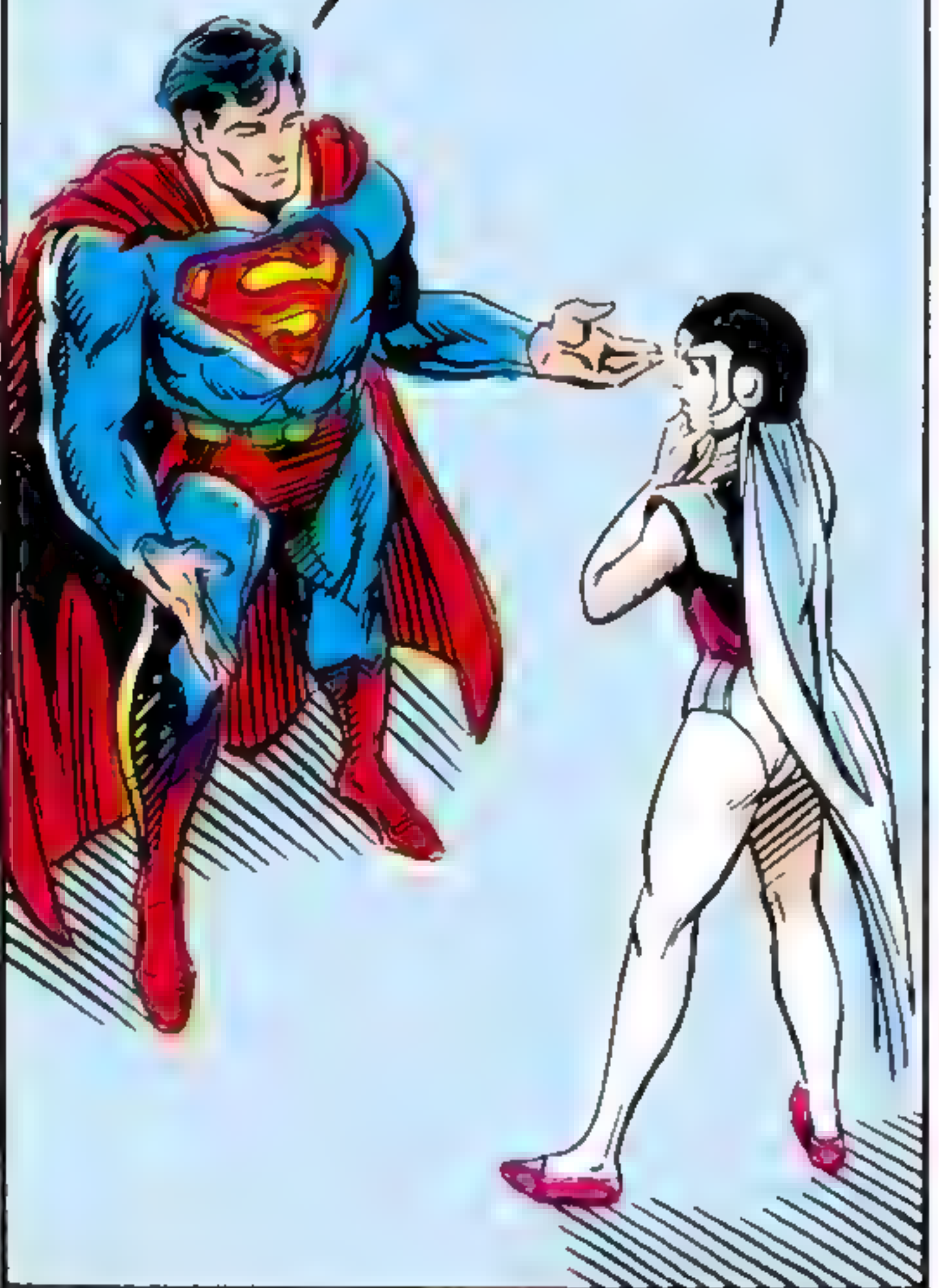
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR TUNE RATHER QUICKLY, MISS... I RECALL THAT YOU HAD YOUR OWN PLANS FOR JIMMY OLSEN!



I THOUGHT BECAUSE OF HIS... I ONLY SOUGHT TO HELP OUR CAUSE... I MEAN, WITH YOUR HELP WE COULD--

OKAY, I CAME TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO FIND SOMEONE, AND I'D THOUGHT I'D COME UP AGAINST A LITERAL DEAD END...

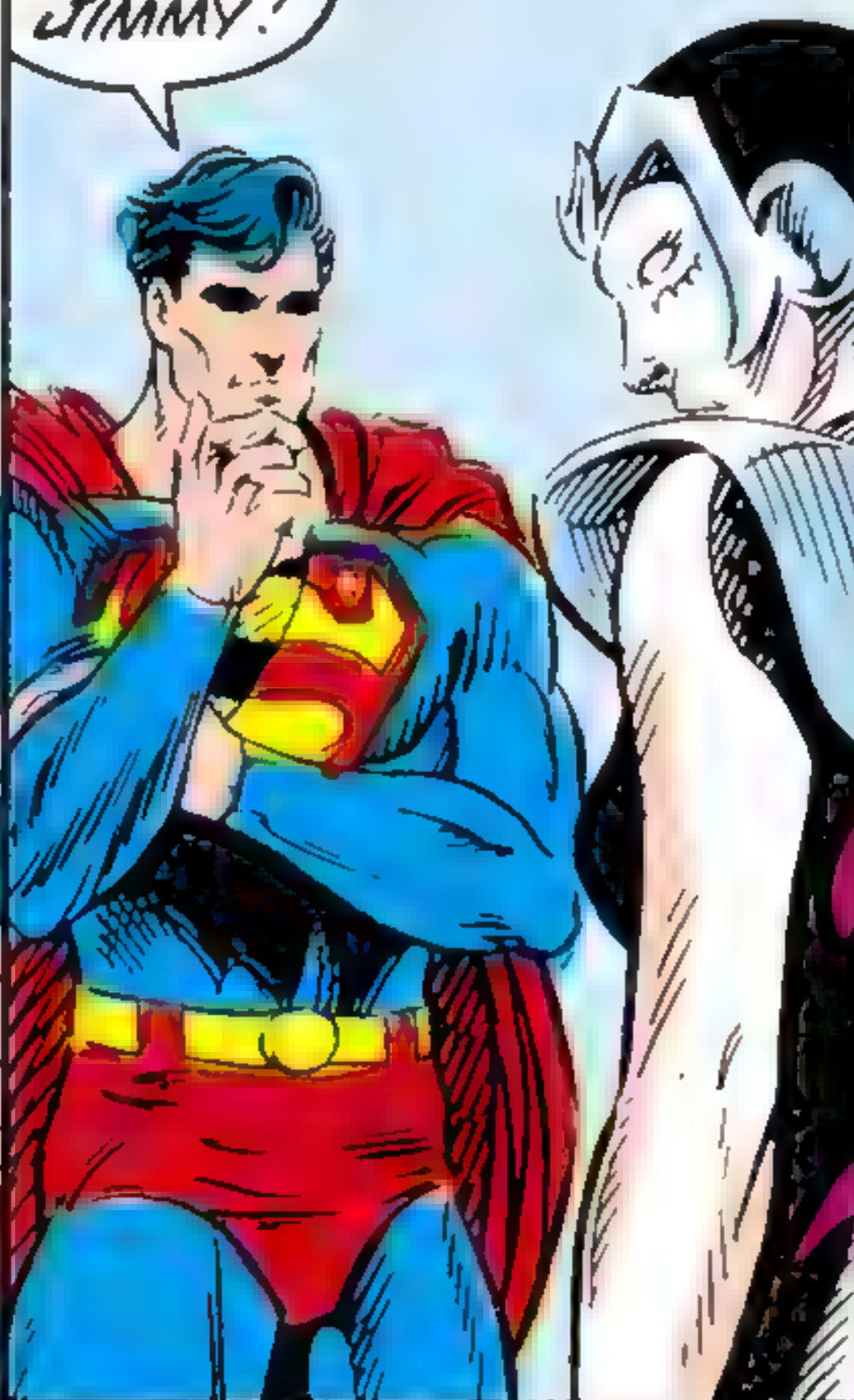
BUT WITH WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME, I THINK I'M ON HIS TRAIL AGAIN...



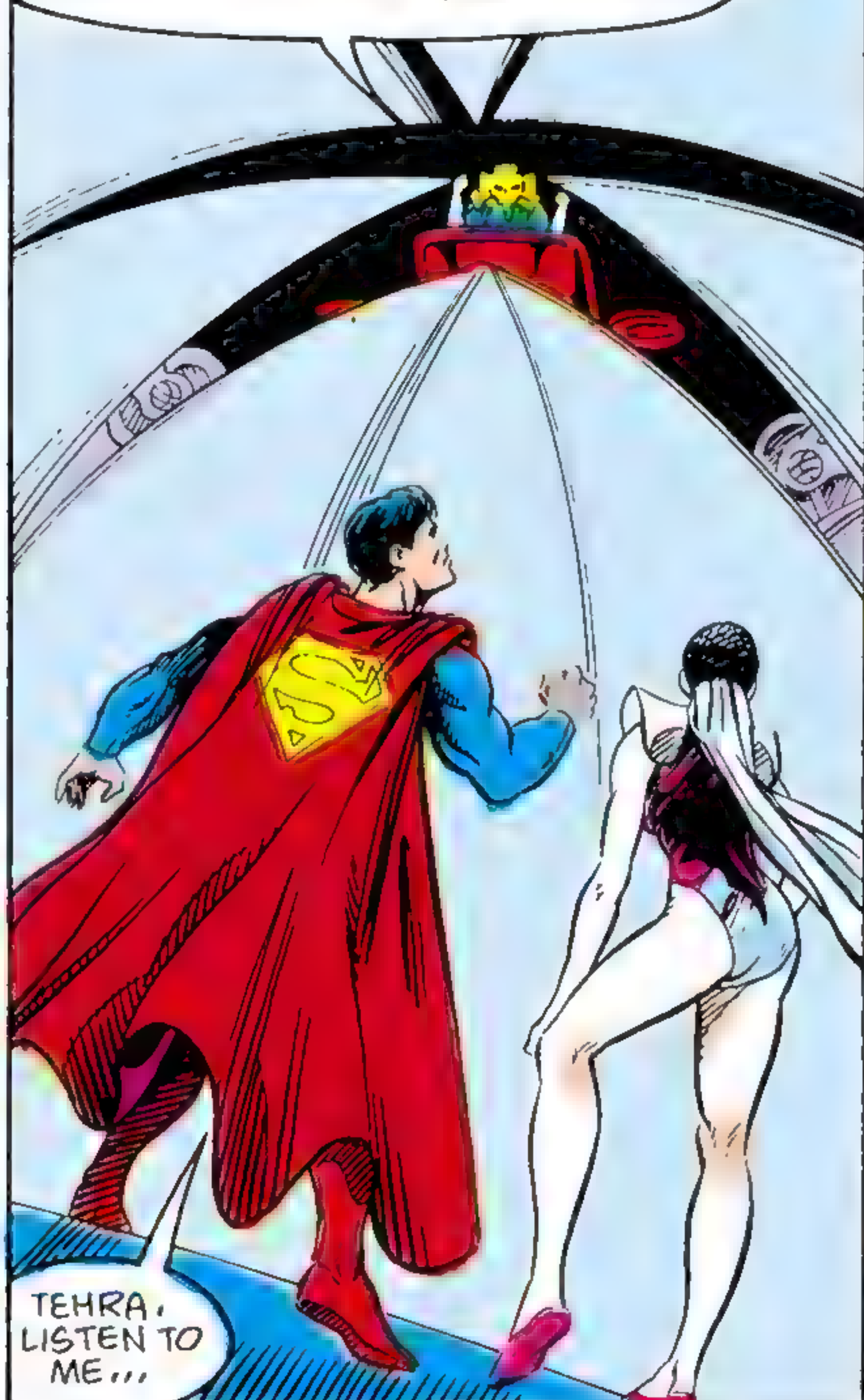
DO YOU KNOW IF THE HUMAN WHO WAS MELDED WITH THE EMPEROR WAS ALIVE WHEN HE WAS BROUGHT HERE?

MY BROTHER AND I WERE ONLY "BORN" WITH THE CYCLE PAST, SO I CANNOT TELL YOU FOR SURE, BUT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE PROCEDURE HASN'T BEEN PERFORMED ON A LIVE HUMAN... YET!

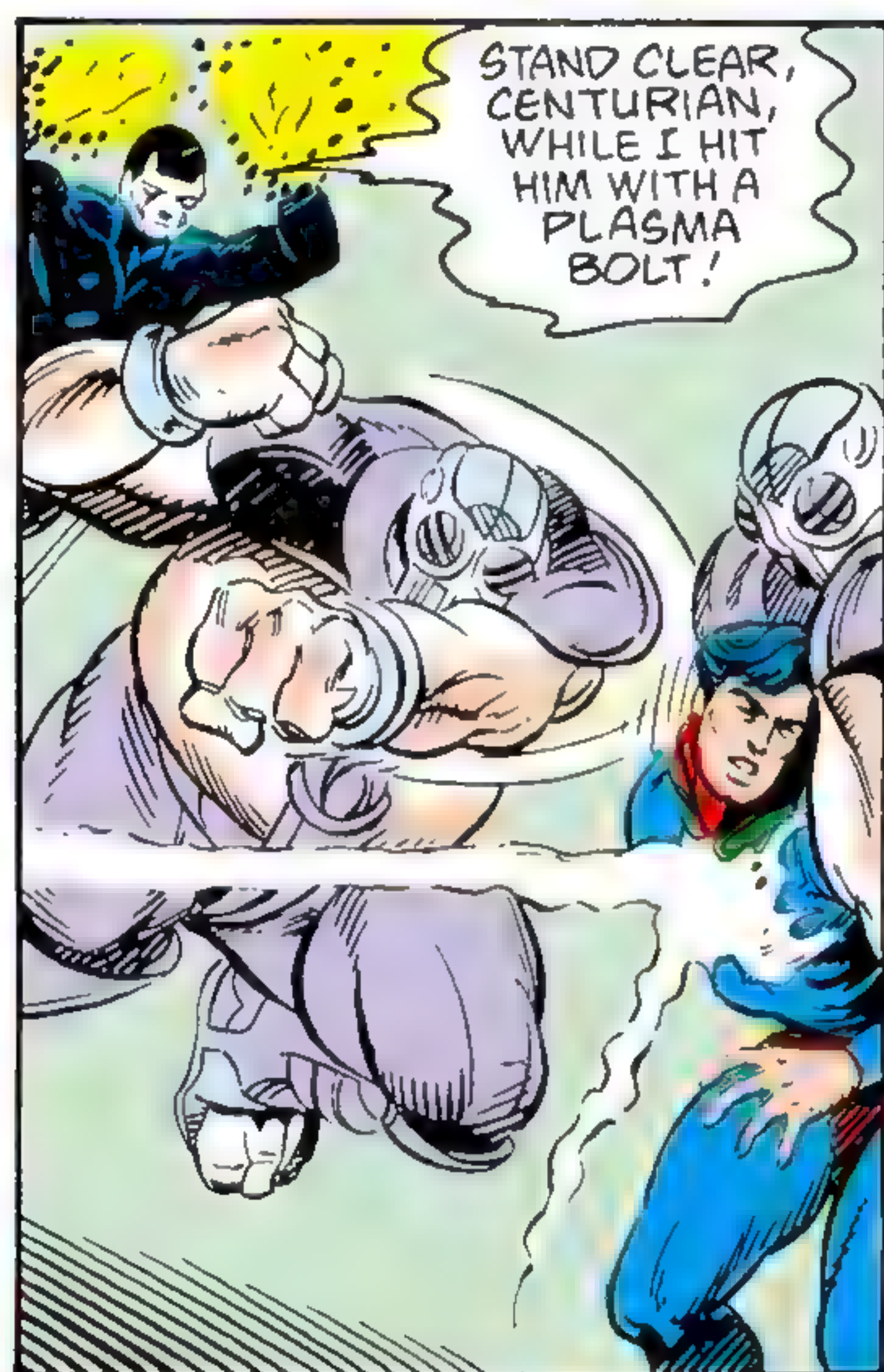
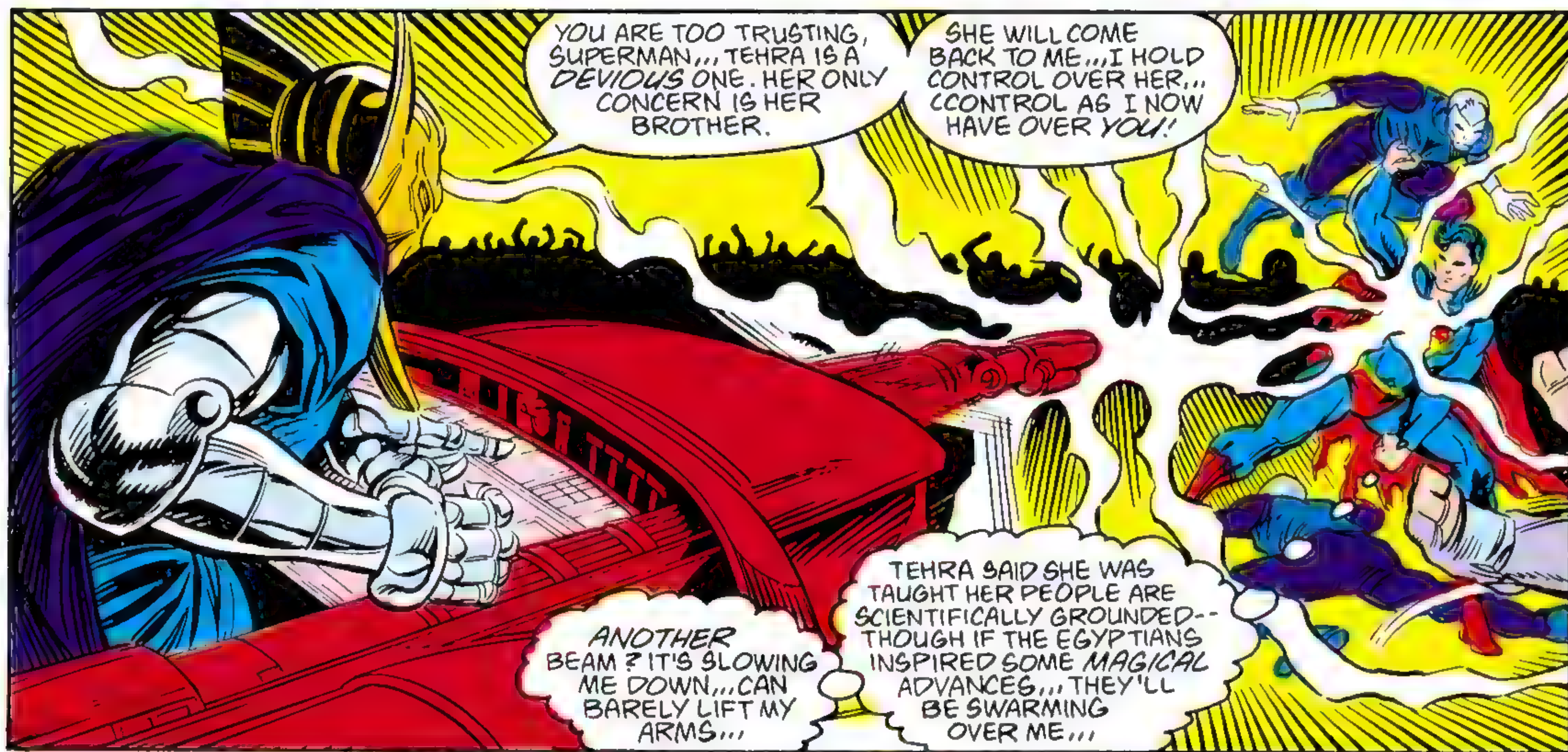
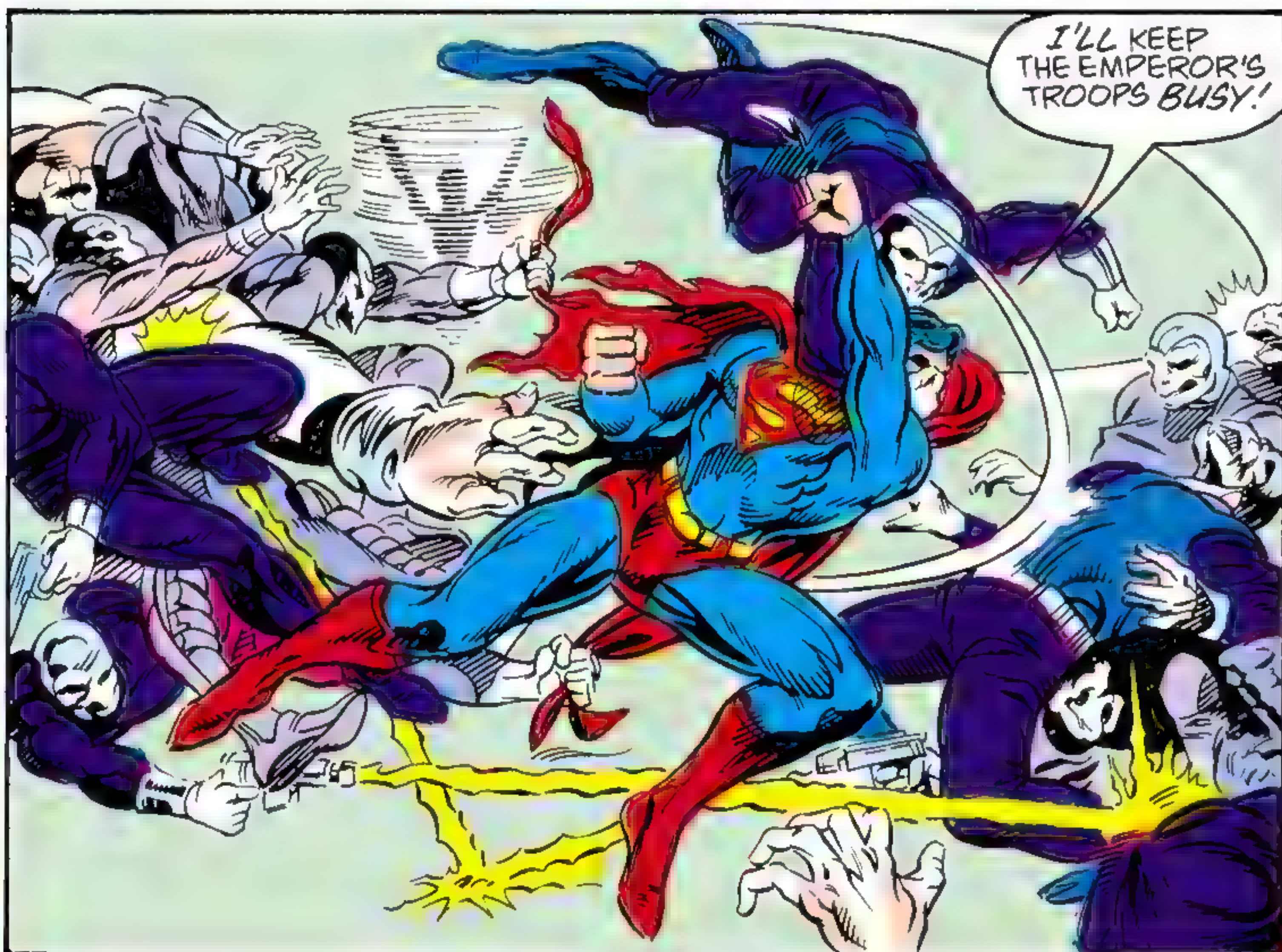
GOOD GOD! JIMMY!

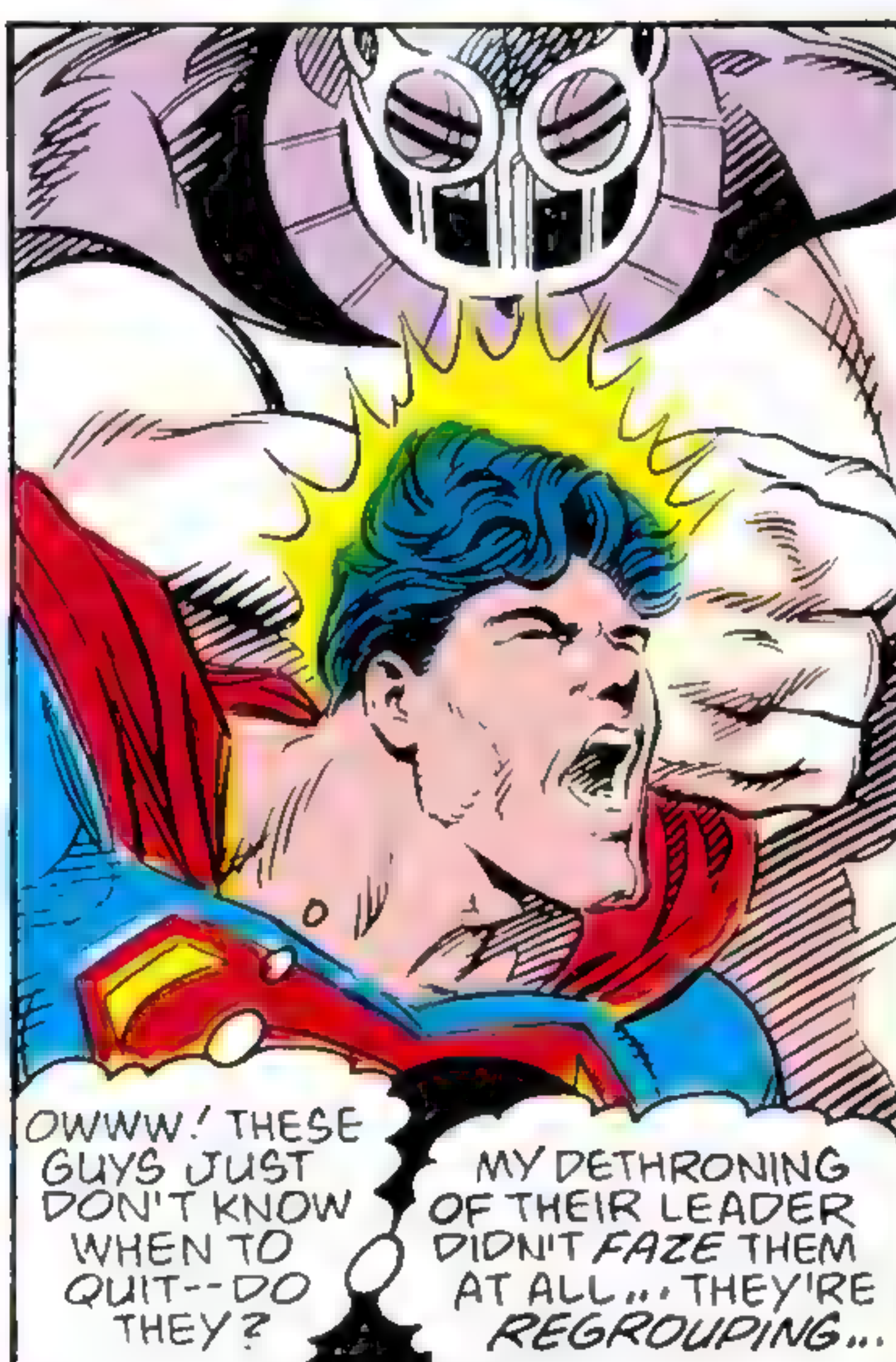
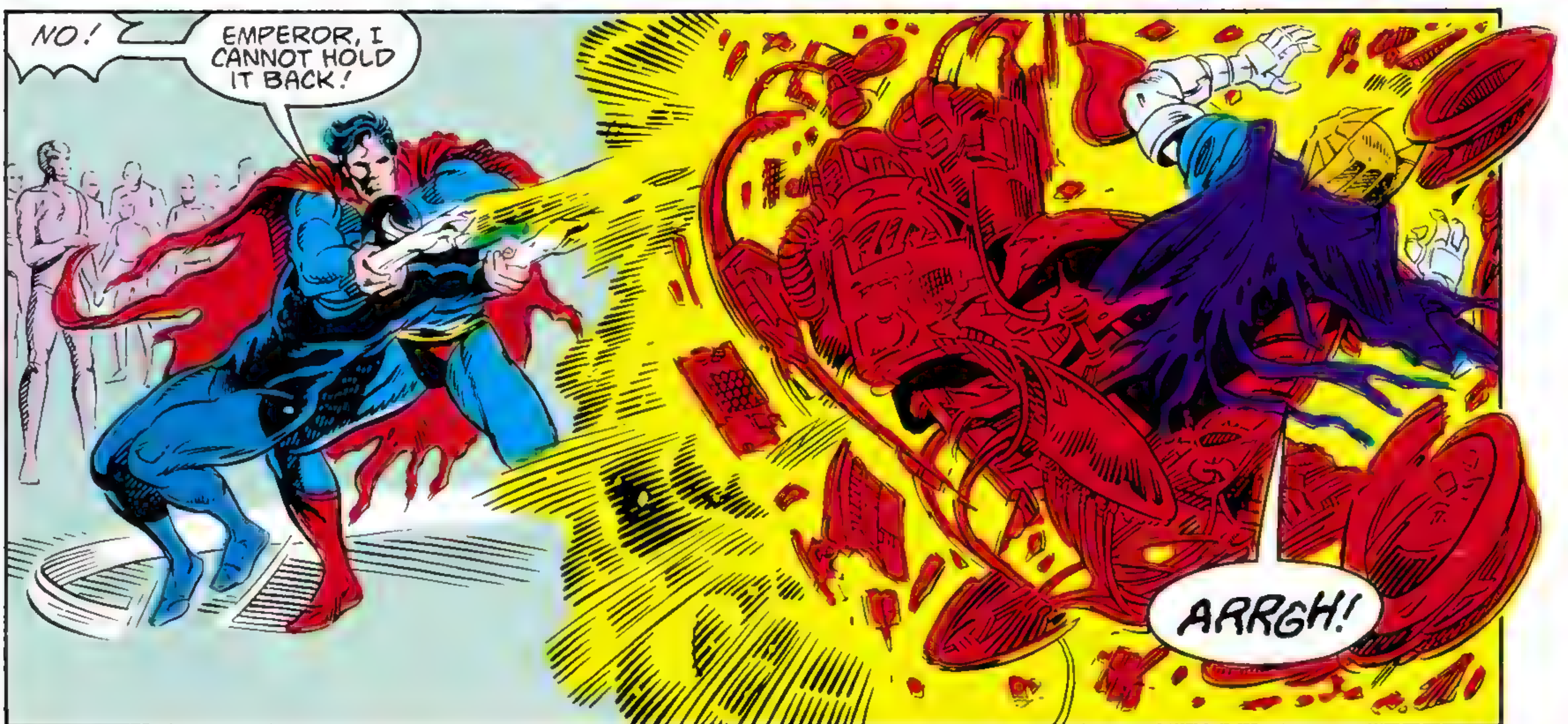


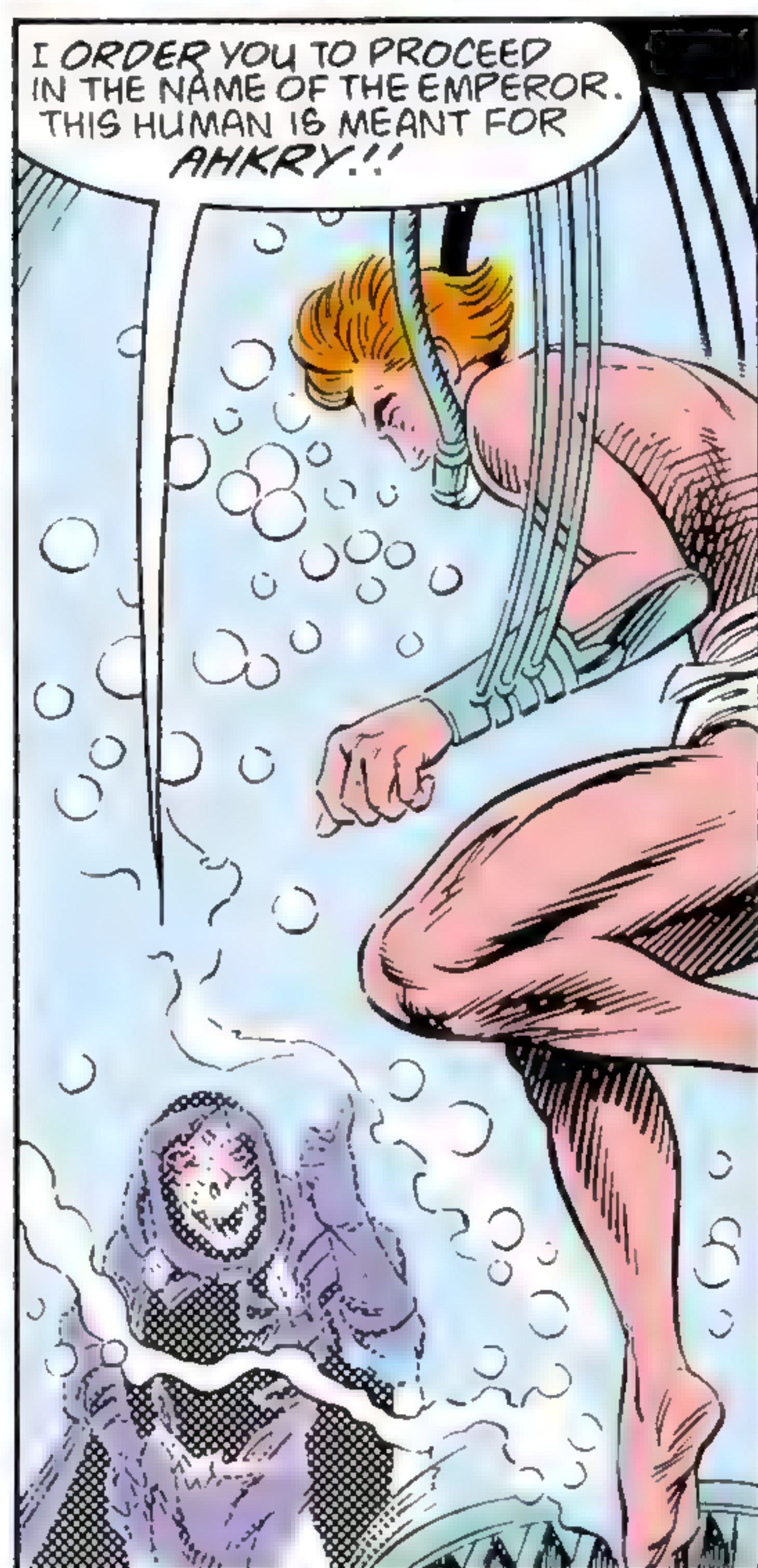
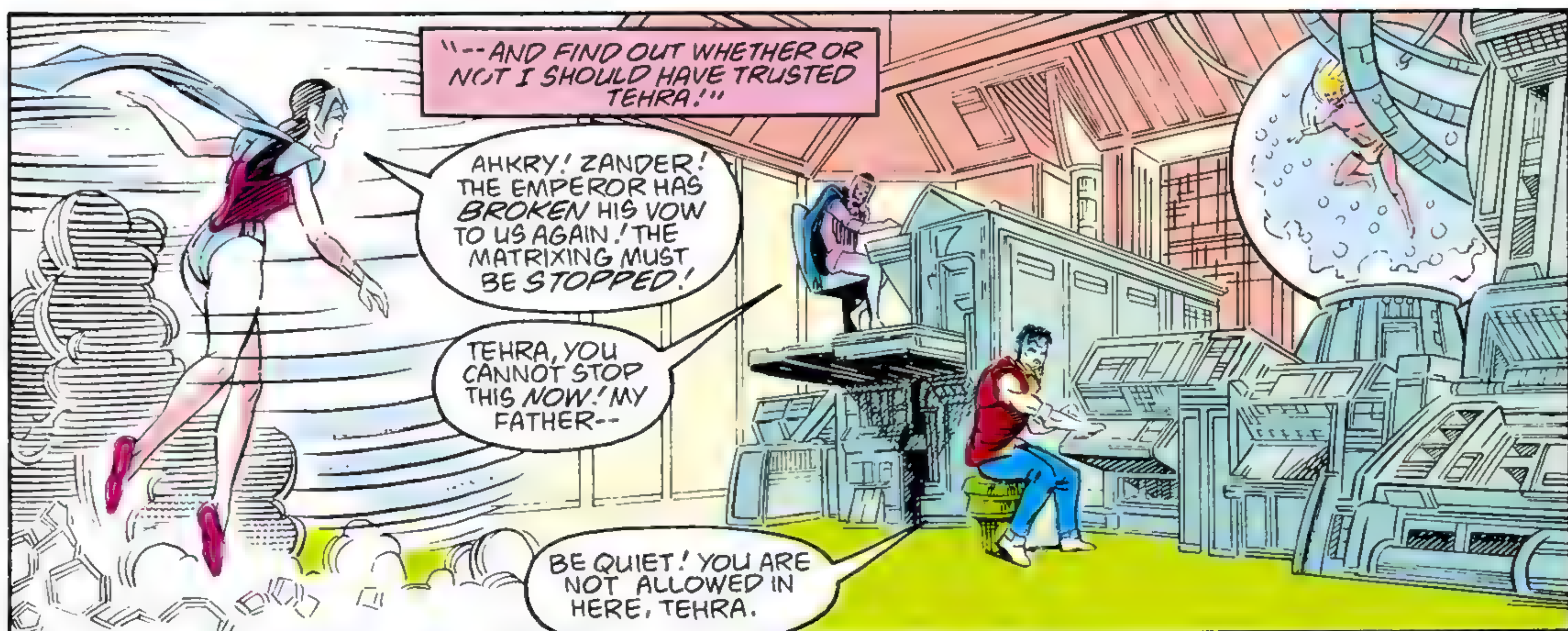
IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU ARE SO PREDICTABLE, TEHRA! NOW I'LL HAVE YOU BOTH IN THE CHAMBERS... YOU FOR MENTAL CONDITIONING, AND THE SUPERMAN AS MY NEXT BODY DONOR!

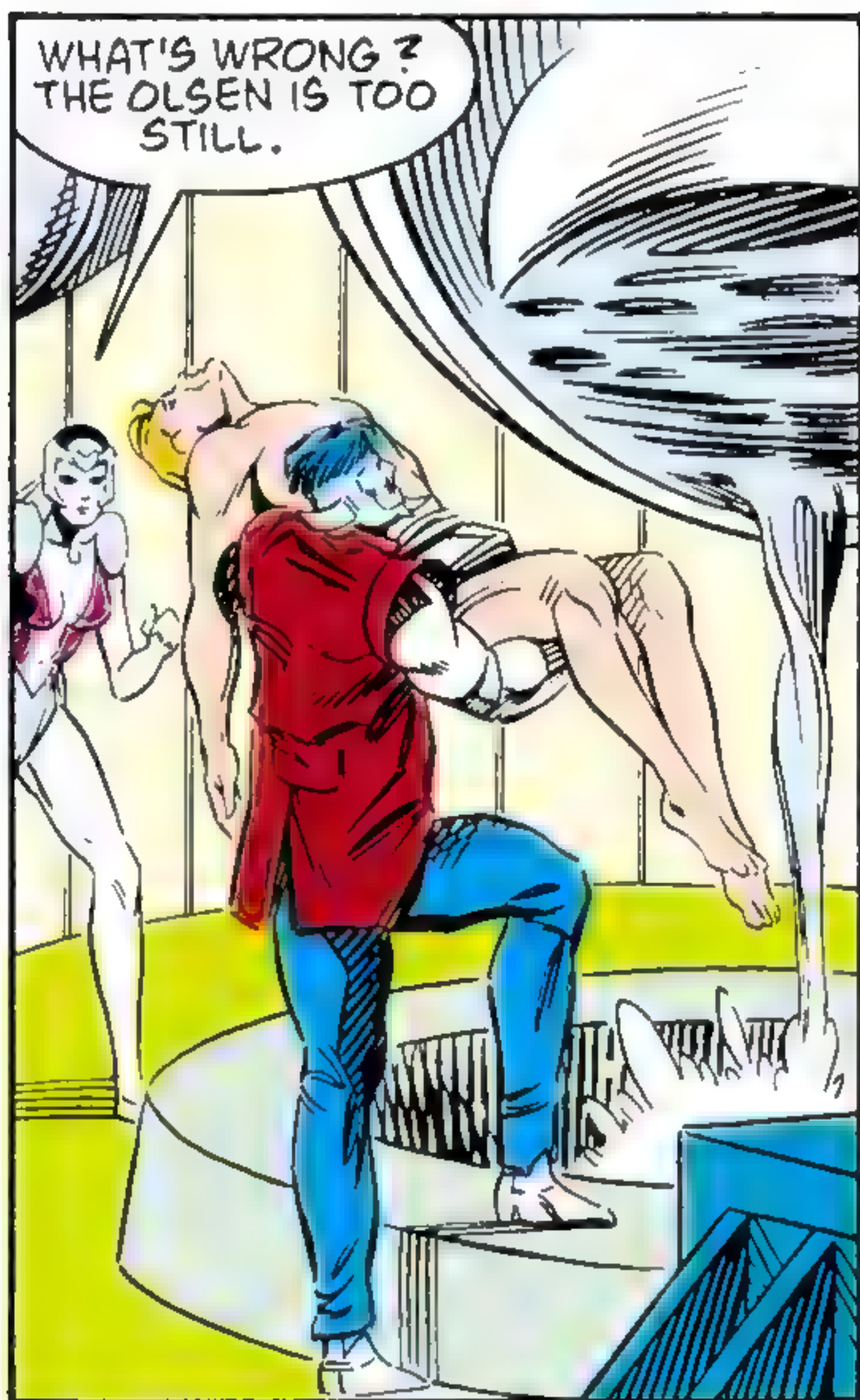


TEHRA, LISTEN TO ME...





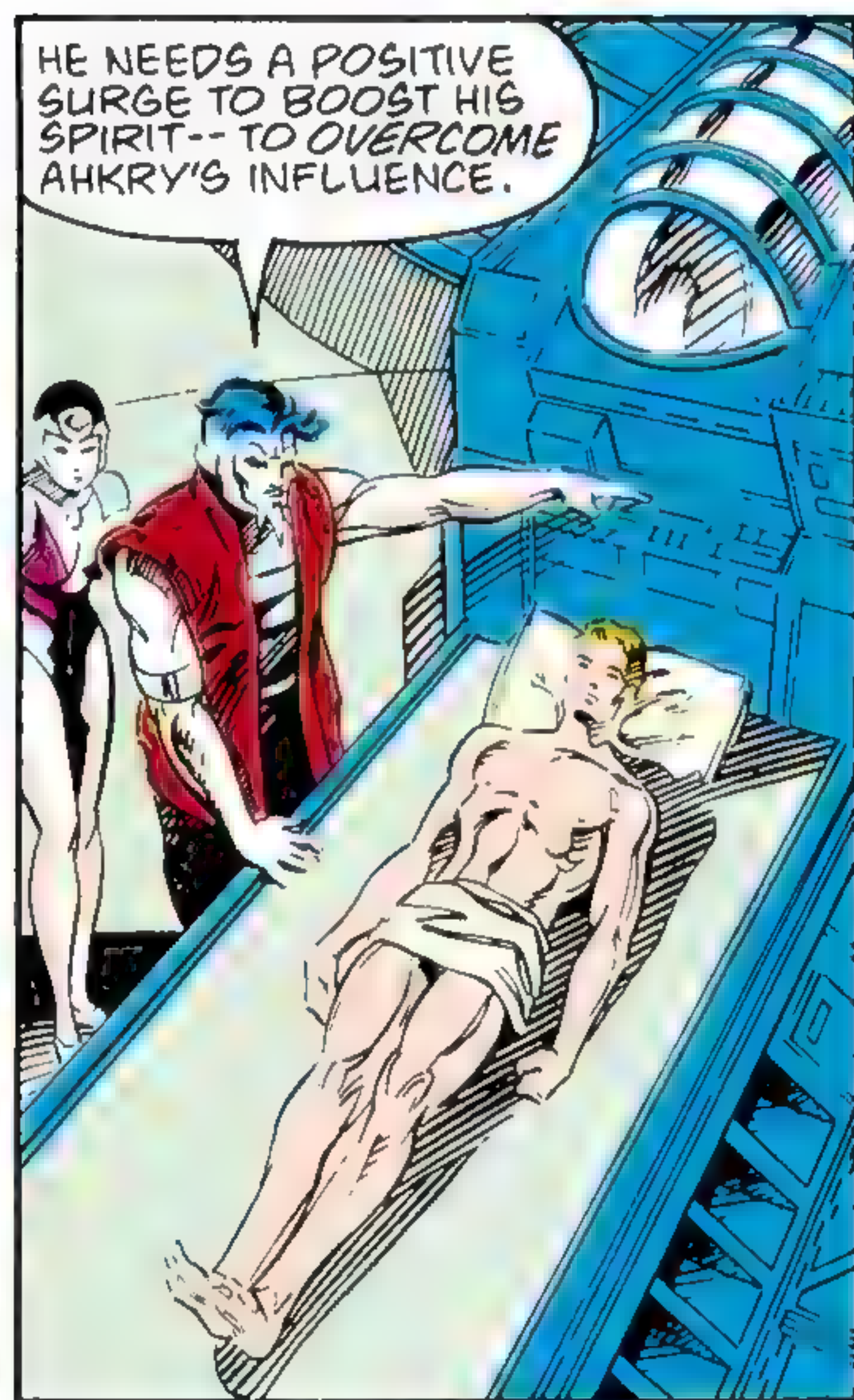




WHAT'S WRONG?
THE OLSEN IS TOO
STILL.



HE IS ALIVE, BUT IN A LIMBO. HIS
LIFE ESSENCE WAS BEING FORCED
TO RECEDE TO ACCOMMODATE
AHKRY'S INPUT.



HE NEEDS A POSITIVE
SURGE TO BOOST HIS
SPIRIT-- TO OVERCOME
AHKRY'S INFLUENCE.



I'LL NOT HAVE HIS DEATH ON
MY HANDS. HIS LIFE IS SACRED!
HE MUST BE REVIVED!

I'M AFRAID
WE CANNOT
HELP HIM,
TEHRA--



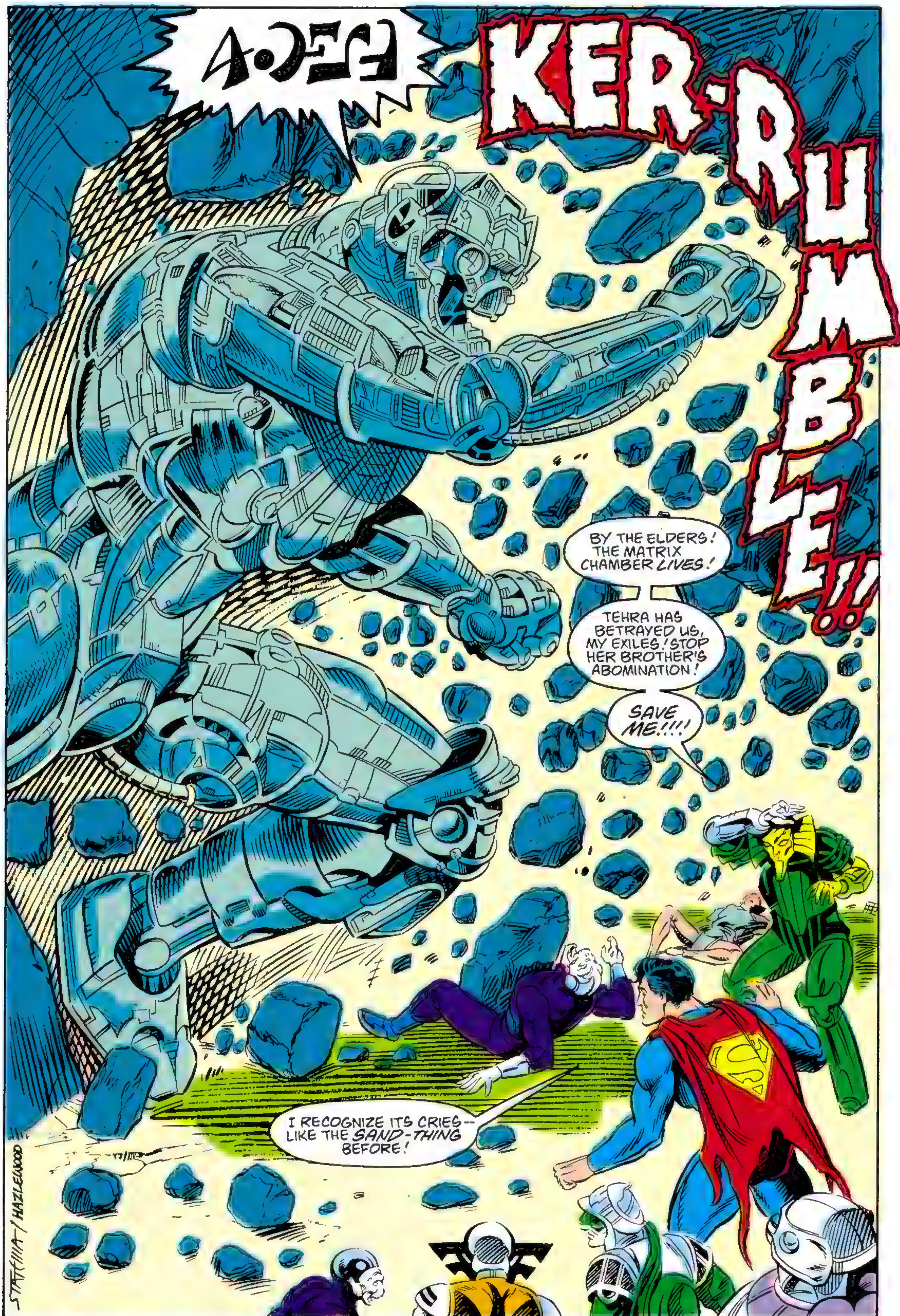
"--BUT YOUR
BROTHER CAN!"

DON'T YOU ALL SEE, YOU HAVE
CORRUPTED YOUR ELDERS, LEGACY
WITH THIS QUEST FOR SUPERIORITY!
THEY WERE NOT MURDERERS!

YOU-- NEW
EMPEROR--ARE
YOUR PEOPLE SO
BLIND THAT THEY
FOLLOW ANYONE
WEARING THAT
HELMET?

MY INCAPACITATED
PREDECESSOR WAS NO
FOOL, SUPERMAN!

HE MADE THEM
RECOGNIZE THE
IMPORTANCE OF
THE CROWN--



POW

KER-BOOM!

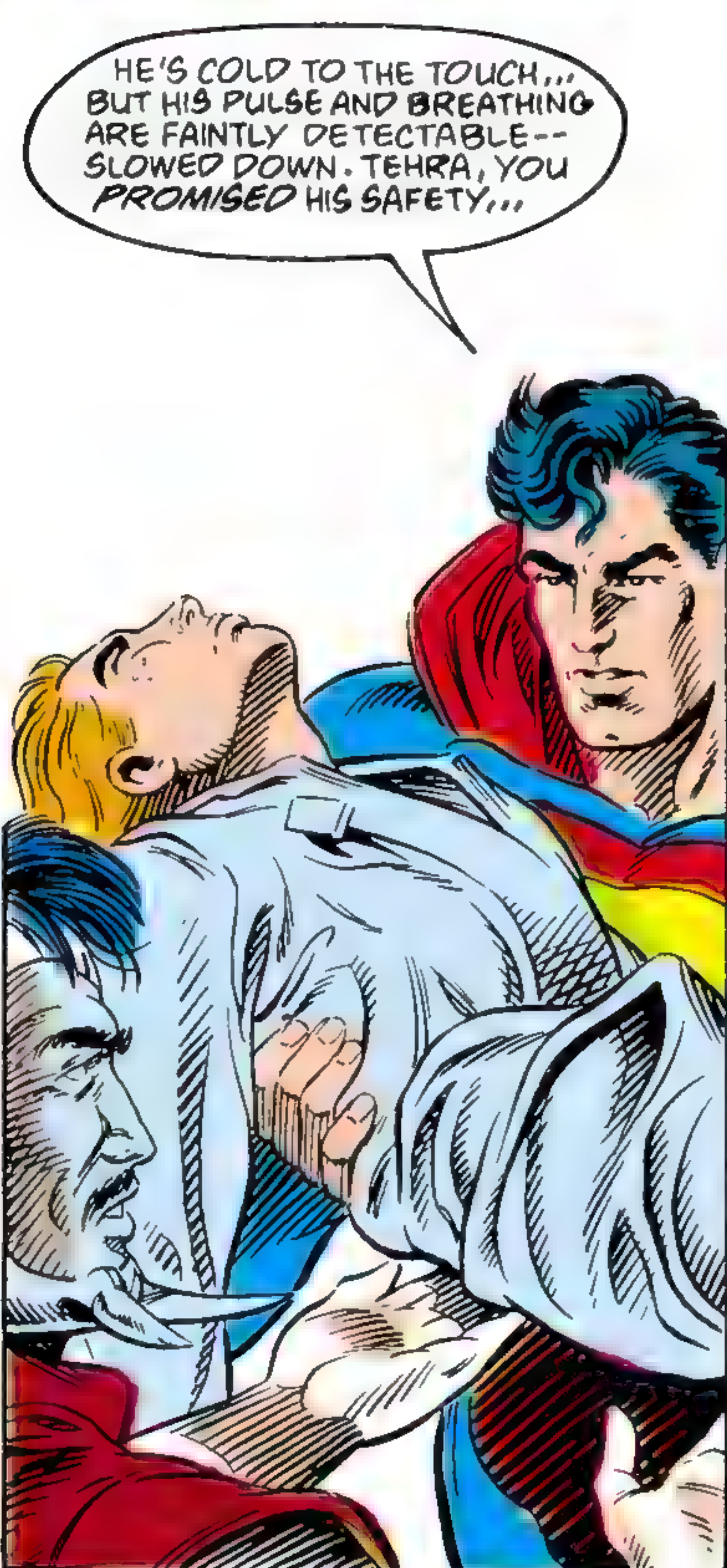
BY THE ELDERS!
THE MATRIX
CHAMBER LIVES!

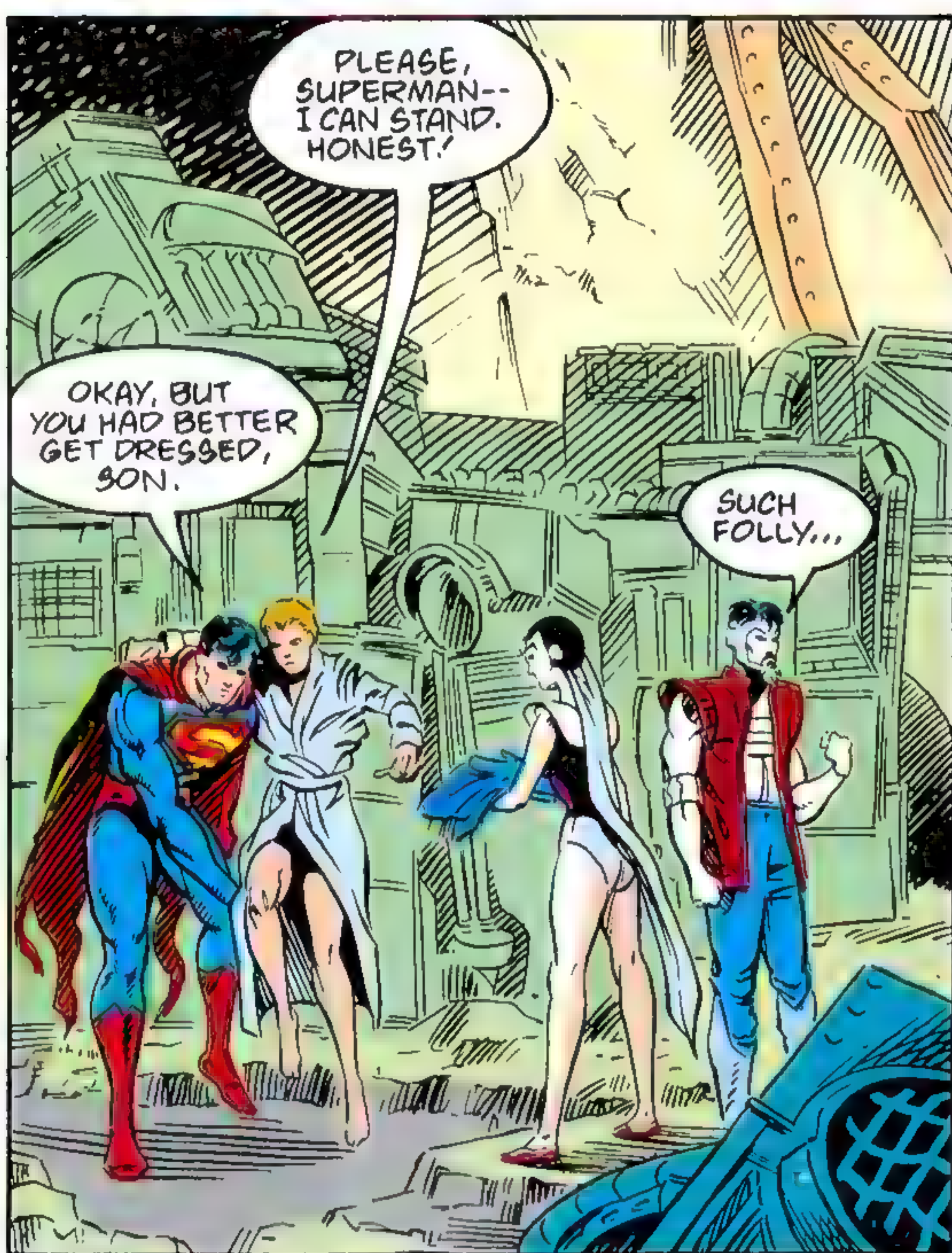
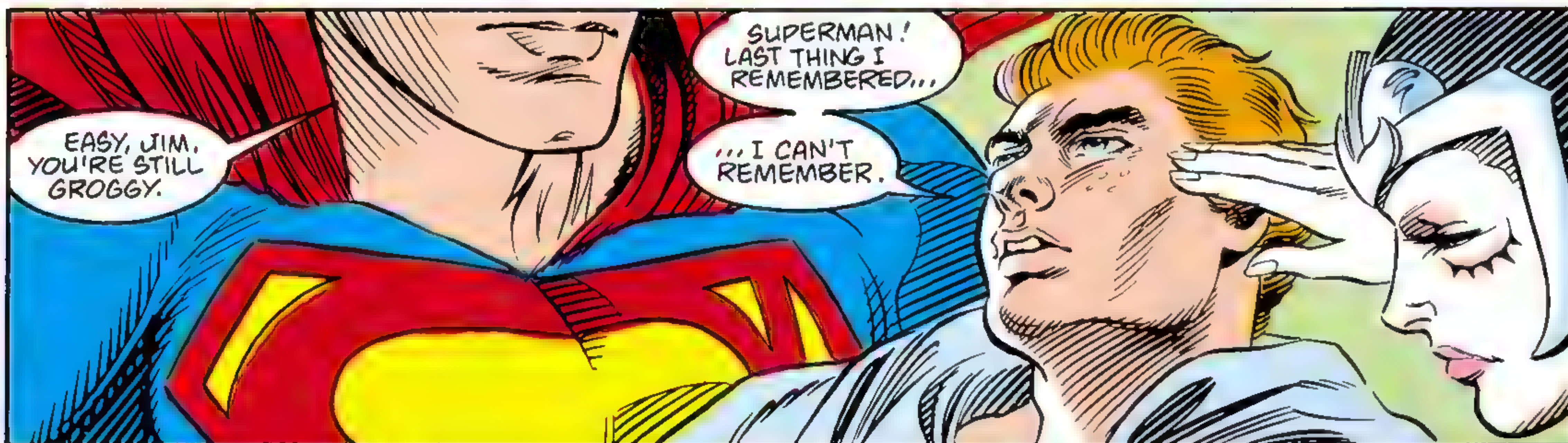
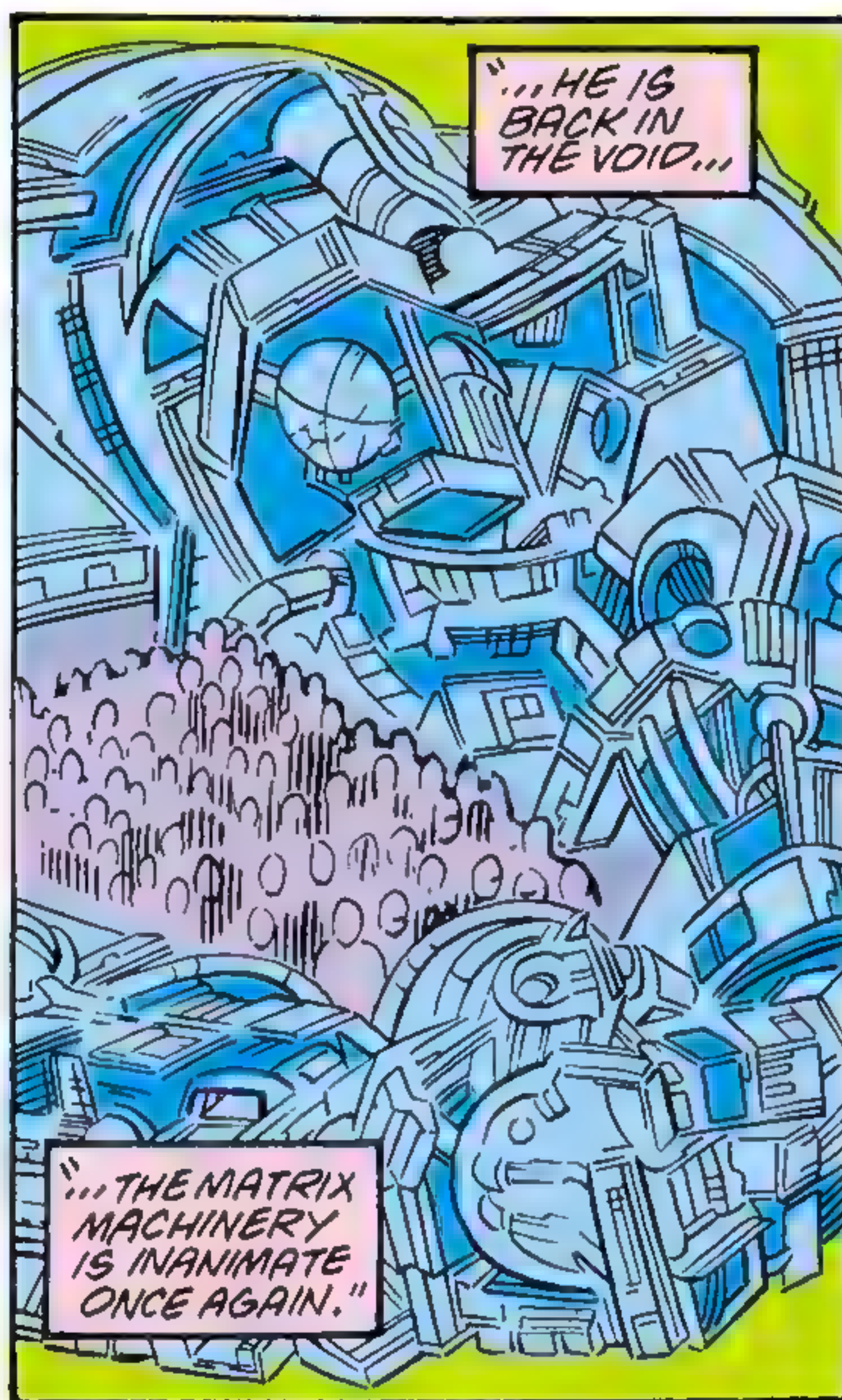
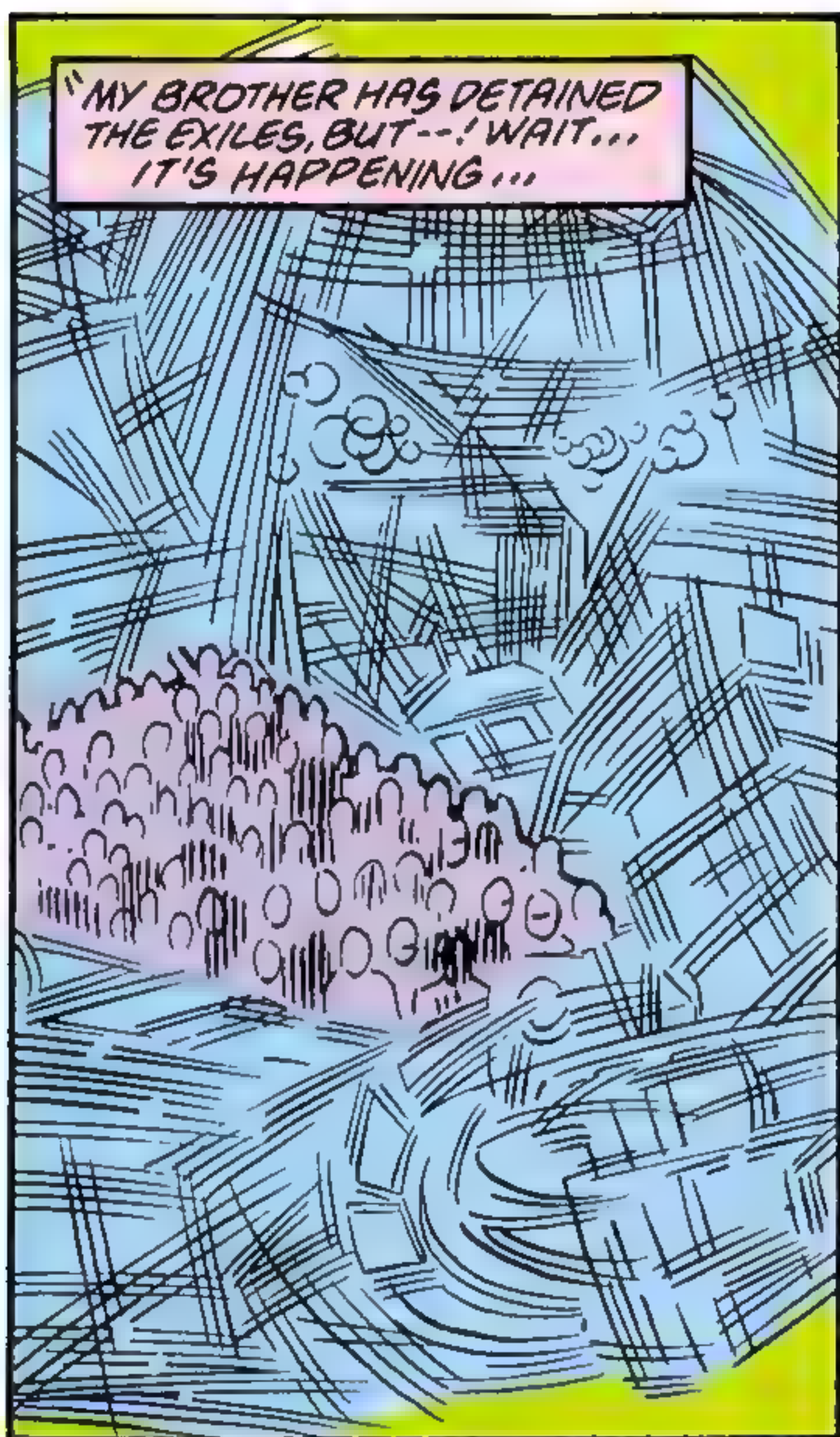
TEHRA HAS
BETRAYED US,
MY EXILES! STOP
HER BROTHER'S
ABOMINATION!

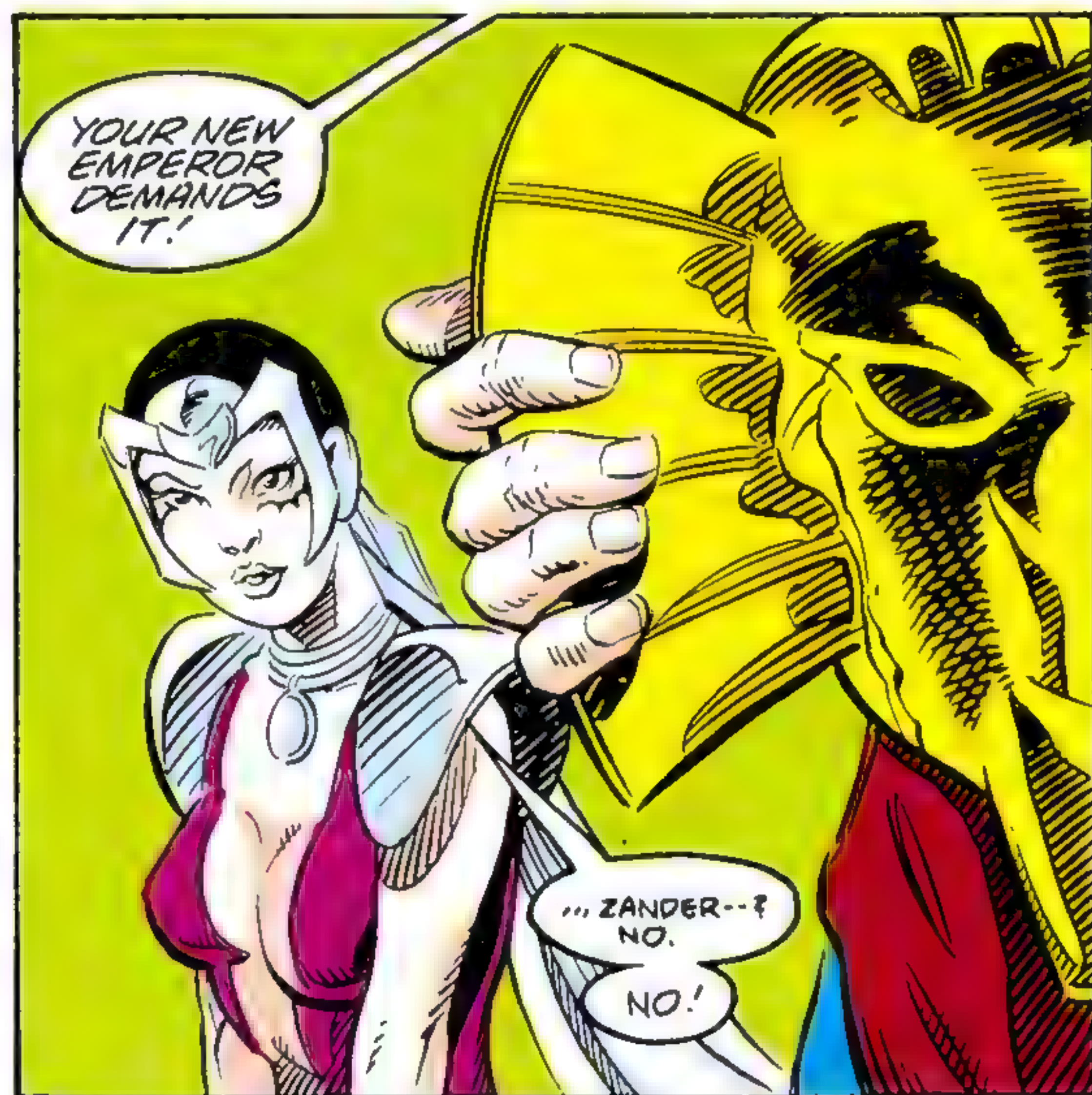
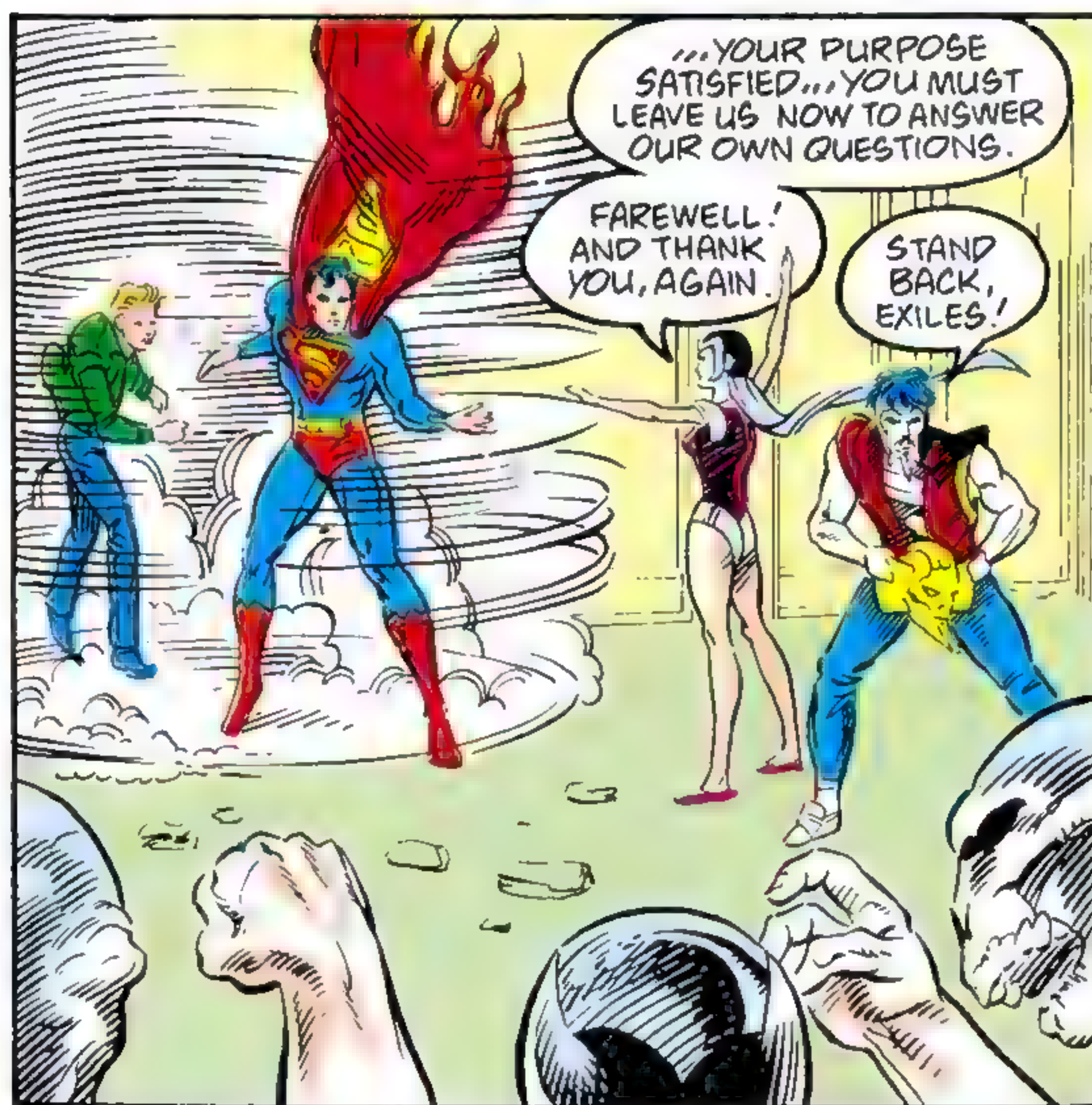
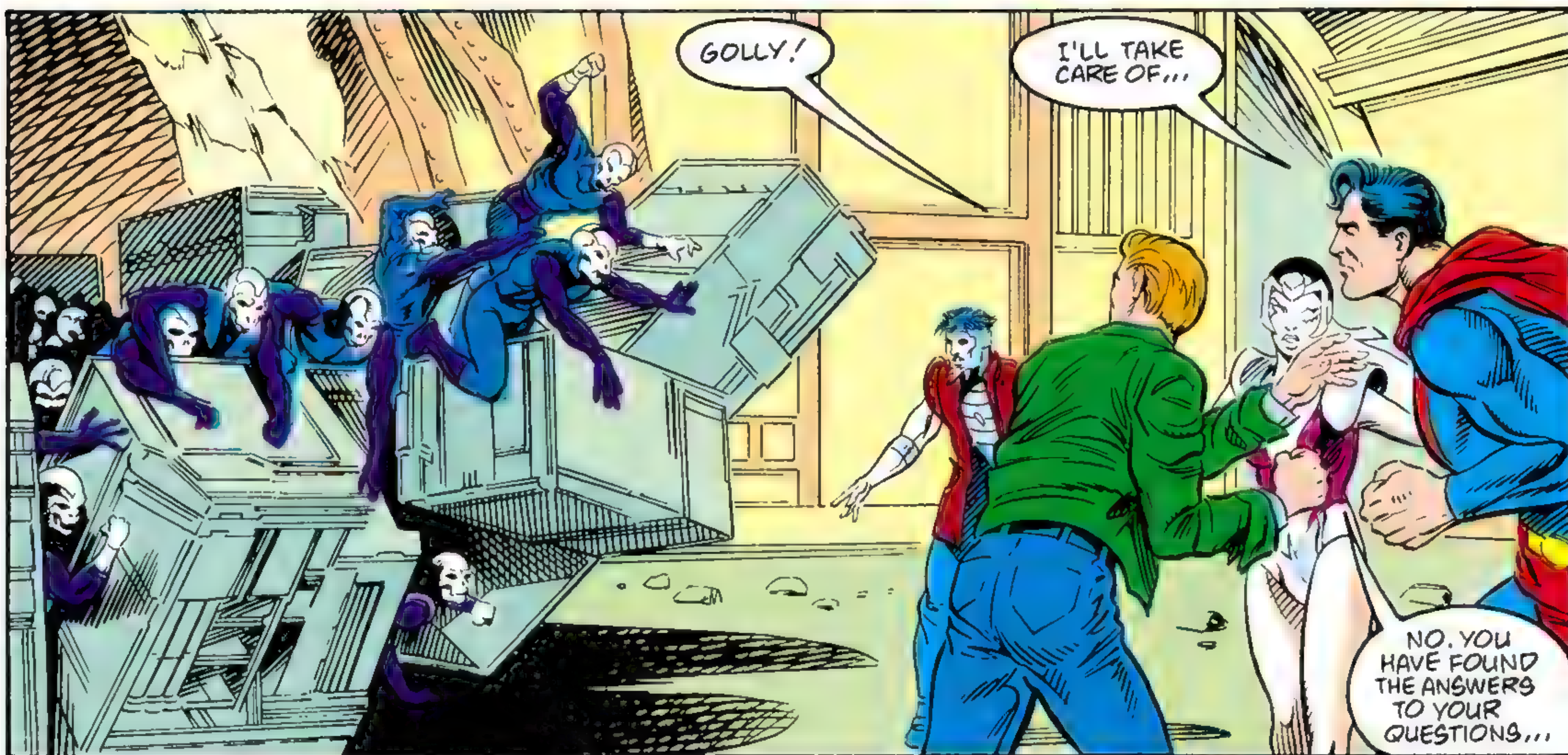
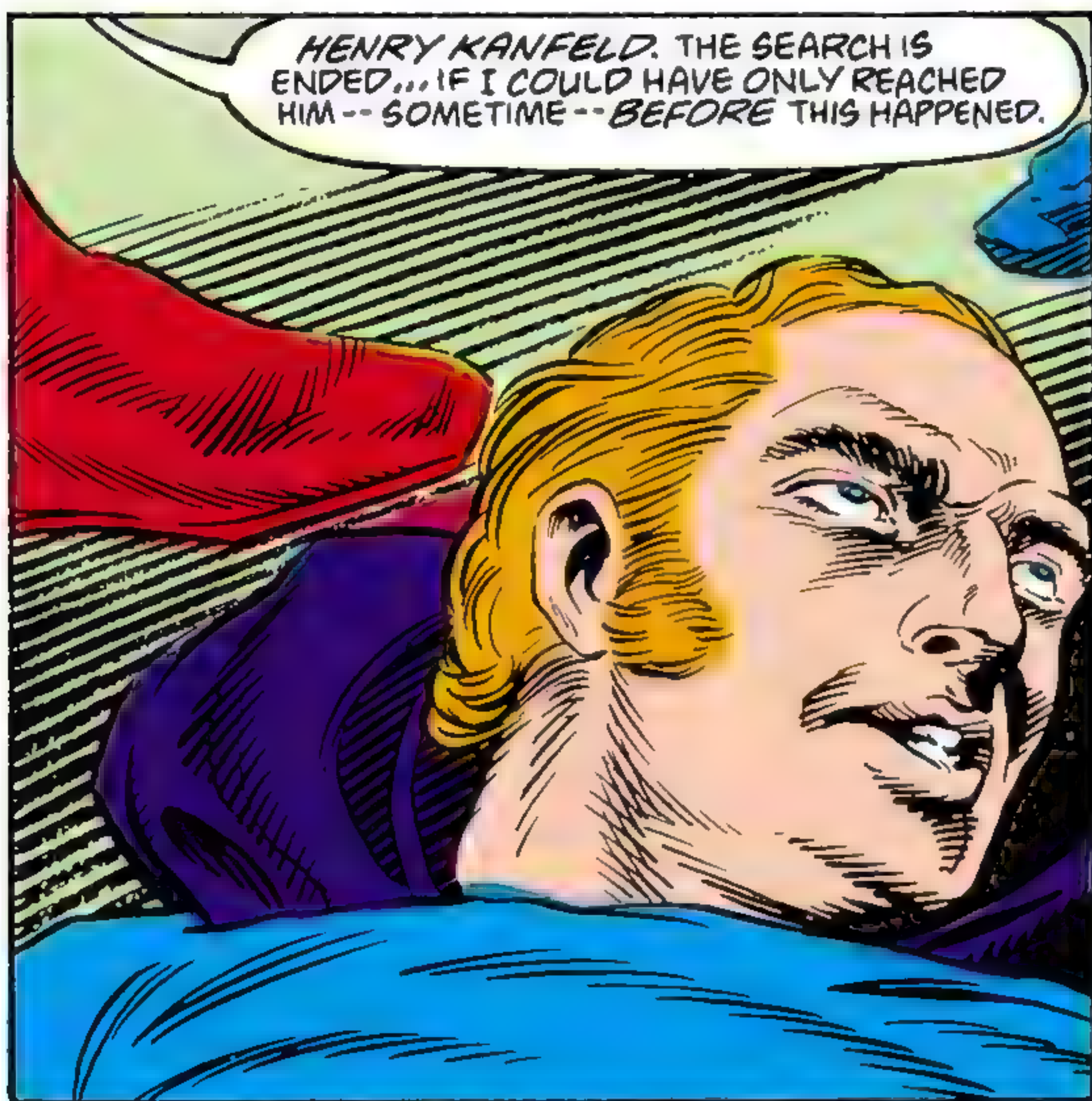
SAVE
ME!!!!

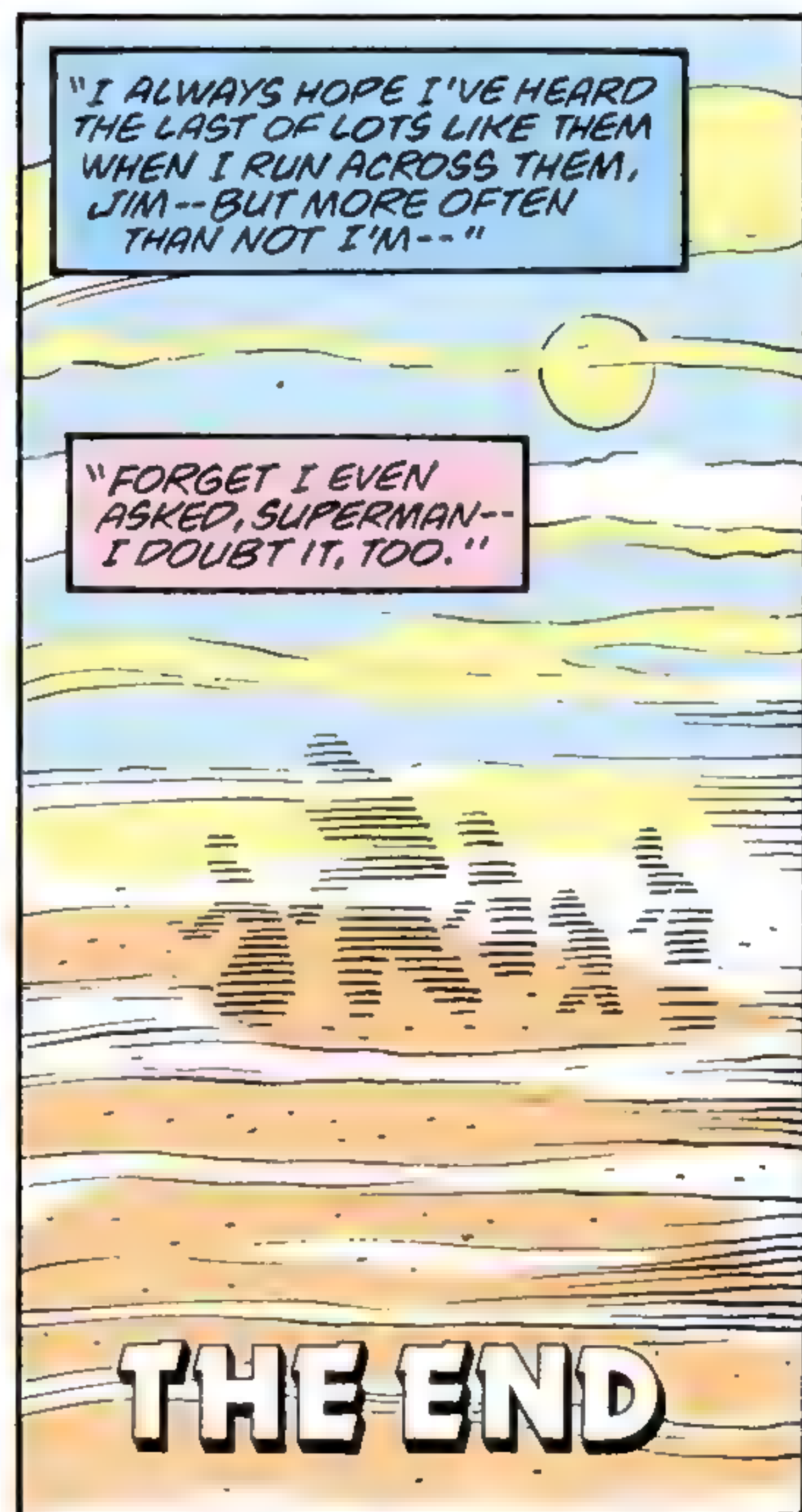
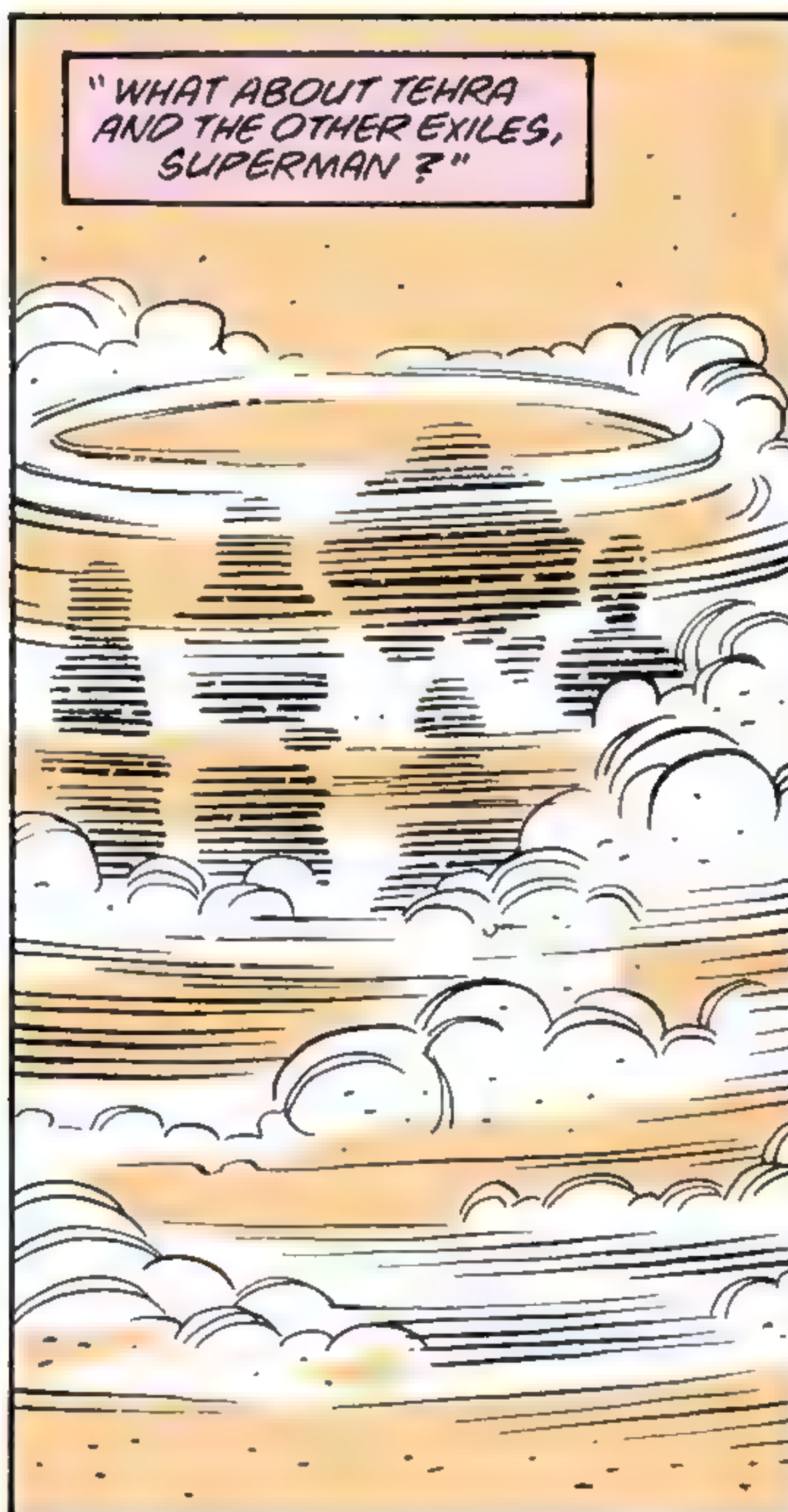
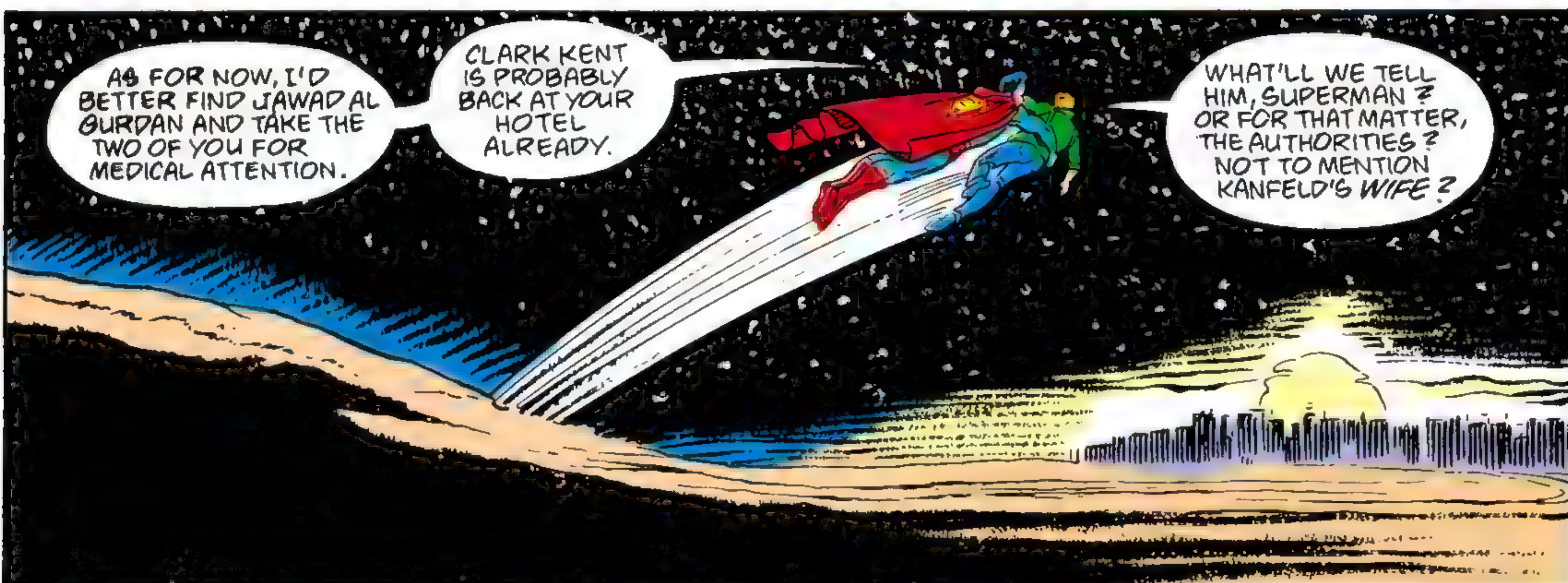
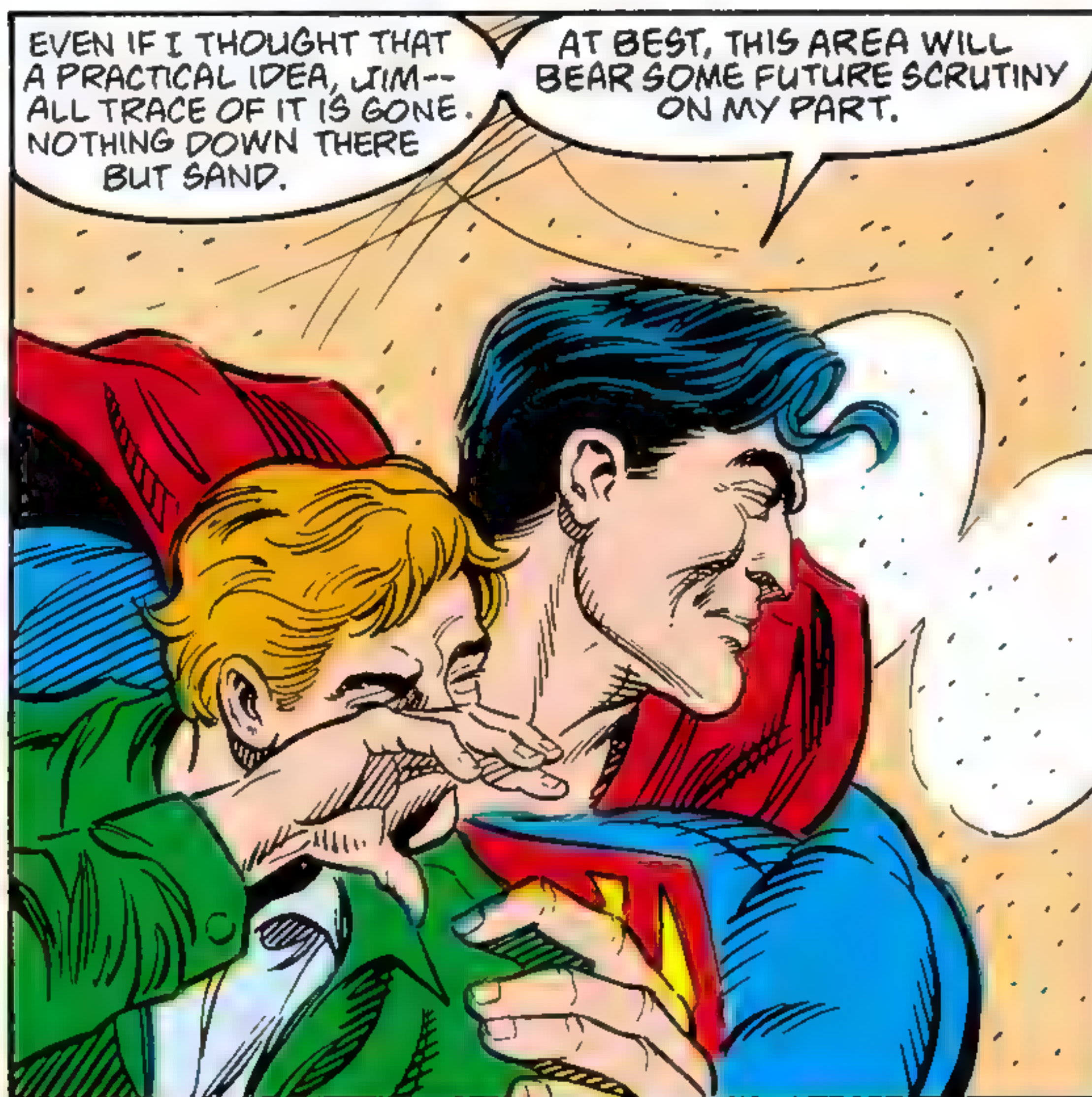
I RECOGNIZE ITS CRIES--
LIKE THE SAND-THING
BEFORE!

STAFF/HAZLEWOOD









LUNCH IS A BAG OF COMPADRES
AND A TUB OF HOT RED SALSA UP
ON TOP OF MARRON PLAZA.

I WONDER IF MAYBE I'M
DEALING WITH SOME KIND OF
SUPER-VILLAIN WHO CAN
CHANGE INTO AN INSECT.

THIS IS USELESS. I'VE BEEN
OUT OF CIRCULATION TOO LONG
TO...

THE CITY'S SPREAD
OUT IN FRONT OF
ME. TIGHT-LIPPED,
IT TELLS ME
NOTHING.

BUG-MAN OR
SOMETHING.

KIWI!!!

IS THERE A
BUG-MAN?

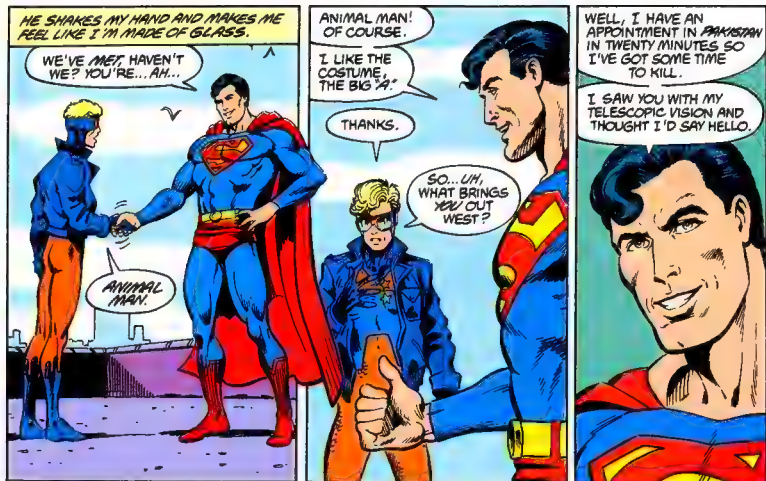
WHAT THE HELL
WAS THAT?...
SOUNDED LIKE
A BIRD OR A
CAT MAYBE...

I'M STILL WONDERING
WHEN I SEE A DOT OUT
ON THE HORIZON...

HE'S
STANDING
IN FRONT
OF ME.

HI
THERE.

AND BEFORE I'VE
GOT TIME TO BLINK...

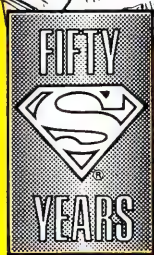




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